

Annals.

NORDDEUTSCHER LLOYD,

BREMEN.

IMPERIAL GERMAN MAIL LINES.

FOR	STEAMERS	TO SAIL
NAPLES, GENOA, ALGIERS, GIBRALTAR, SOUTHAMPTON, ANTWERP and BREMEN	"LUTZOW" Capt. C. Dawes	WEDNESDAY, 10th February, Noon.
SHANGHAI, NAGASAKI, KOBE, and YOKOHAMA	"PRINZESS ALICE" Capt. P. Grosch	ABOUT THURSDAY, 11th February.
MANILA, YAP, NEW GUINEA, BRISBANE, SYDNEY and MELBOURNE	"MANILA" Capt. H. Menssen	THURSDAY, 25th February, 5 P.M.

For further particulars, apply to

NORDDEUTSCHER LLOYD.

MELCHERS & CO.,

GENERAL AGENTS, HONGKONG & CHINA.

Hongkong, 2nd February, 1909.

THE YOKOHAMA DOCK CO., LTD.

NO. 1 DOCK.

Length inside 514 ft. Width of entrance, top 95 ft.; bottom 75 ft. Water on blocks, 27.5 ft. Time to pump out, 4 hours.

NO. 2 DOCK.

Length inside, 375 ft. Width of entrance, top 60.5 ft. bottom 45.8 ft. Water on blocks, 26.5 ft. Time to pump out, 2 hours.

THESE DOCKS are conveniently situated in Yokohama harbour and the attention of Captains and Engineers is respectfully called to the advantages offered for Docking and repairing Vessels and Machinery of every description.

The plant and tools are of recent patterns for dealing quickly and cheaply with work and a large stock of material is always at hand, (plates and angles all being tested by Lloyds' surveyors).

Two powerful Twin Screw Tugboats are available for taking Vessels in or out of Dock, and for taking Sailing Vessels in or out of the bay. The floating derrick is capable of lifting 35 tons.

Steam Launches of Steel or Wood, Lighters, Steel Buildings and Roofs, Bridge Work and all kinds of Machinery are made on the premises.

Tenders will be made up when required and the workmanship and material will be guaranteed.

The cost of Docking, and repair work, will be found to compare favourably with that of any port in the world.

Telephone: Nos. 376, 506, or 681.

Telegrams, "Dock, Yokohama," Codes A. B. C. 4th and 5th Edt.

Liebers, Scotts, A. 1, and Watkins.

Yokohama, May 23rd, 1909.

TYRANNY OF FASHION.

ITALIAN LADIES DEFY THE DRESSMAKER.

Some ladies moving in the highest social circles of the Italian capital, headed by Queen Elena and other members of the royal family, have just formed an association which aims at putting an end to the rule of the Parisian dressmakers in the matter of ladies' attire. In commanding these royal ladies for the attitude they have adopted, Truth expresses the opinion that the dressmakers "impose the same style upon all their customers, whether they are tall or short, fat or thin."

Their "creations" are as expensive as possible, while fashions vary so considerably as to make it an impossibility to adapt the last dress to the latest fashion. Real artists, it is said, will design the dresses which the Italian association proposes to favour, while it is promised that fashions will not change every other week. This in itself is no inconsiderable concession to the lean purse.

THE "DIRECTOIRE" BANNED.

The members of the new association will see that their members are dressed with due regard to their figures and physical peculiarities. Anything bordering on the Directoire will be rigidly banned. The Directoire style, Truth thinks, gives her wearers "the appearance of a mermaid or mer-matron, with a fish's tail instead of legs, and readers walking a new and difficult art to acquire. When they turn, their skirts twist round and round their feet and ankles, so that when they stand up in a knot. Presumably when all have laid in a stock of mermaid skins, the dressmakers will start something entirely different."

A Morning Leader representative called on Mr. Henry Holiday, the sculptor, and advocate of healthy and artistic dress for women, and asked him what he thought of the idea.

"From what you tell me," he said, "I am entirely in accord with the association's objects. We may well hope that the example set by Italy's royal personages will be followed in other enlightened European countries."

EXCREDIBLY MISCHIEVOUS.

Mr. Holiday agreed that the autocratic treatment of woman's dress to-day was exceedingly mischievous, tending, as it did, entirely to prevent any natural development of the taste of cultured persons.

"It dictates what they are to wear; it is suggested purely by the interests of the dress-making trade, not by any consideration for taste or comfort."

There is ample room, Mr. Holiday thinks, for the cultivation of the aesthetic and the hygienic in women's dress.

"Women's dress is constantly changing, and with each change the new features are rapidly copied from the top to the bottom of the scale. What is worn by the duchess to-day will be imitated by the middle-class to-morrow, and caricatured by the 'Arrêt of the day after.' This, he thought, was the inequality of the classic a powerful factor in destroying individuality in women's dress. The real trouble was that individuality was anathema to the high-class dressmakers. Individuality, when class equality was an accomplished fact, would have the effect of permitting a lady to consult her own convenience in the matter of attire. 'We should then at once have,' he said enthusiastically, 'an element of variety, picturesqueness, and individuality, arising simply from the wholesome conditions of social life and from the freedom which persons would enjoy from that wretched tyranny—in the form of the dressmakers—which now moulds all to one uniform pattern.'

Intimations.

Auctions.

PUBLIC AUCTION.

THE Undersigned have received instructions to sell by PUBLIC AUCTION, FOR ACCOUNT OF THE CONCERNED, TO-MORROW, the 6th February, 1909, at 2.30 P.M., at their Sales Rooms, No. 8 Des Voeux Road, corner of Ice House Street,

A LARGE ASSORTMENT OF JAPANESE CURIOS.

Comprising— SILK-EMBROIDERED WALL HANGINGS, CARVED IVORY FIGURES, AND NETSUKE, BRONZE, BRASS VASES, BOWLS, and FIGURES, TORTOISE SHELL ORNAMENTS, KINKO-SAN SUMA VASES, TEA SETS, MARUZU and KOGO VASES and TEA SETS, KAGA and NAGOYA TEA SETS, &c., &c.

Catalogues will be issued.

TERMS:—As usual.

HUGHES & HOUGH, Auctioneers, Hongkong, 5th February, 1909. [137]

PUBLIC AUCTION.

THE Undersigned has received instructions to commence the sale of THE STOCK IN TRADE AND FIXTURES OF

Messrs. JAY'S LIMITED, which had previously been postponed owing to the nearness of Chinese New Year. The 1st Sale will take place on

MONDAY and TUESDAY, the 8th and 9th February, 1909, commencing each day at 10.30 A.M.

Subsequent sales will be duly announced.

TERMS:—Cash on delivery.

GEO. P. LAMMERT, Auctioneer, Hongkong, 4th February, 1909. [144]

Intimations.

HOTEL MANAGER.

BRITISHER, married, with Eastern and Colonial Experience, seeks position as MANAGER. Highest References. At liberty in May.

Address:—

"HOTEL," C/o Hongkong Telegraph, Hongkong, 2nd February, 1909. [139]

THE DAIRY FARM CO., LTD.

FINE FRESH AUSTRALIAN BUTTER, 73, 75 and 83 cents a lb. Sold in 1/2 lb. pats to suit convenience of customers. Hongkong, 2nd February, 1909. [138]

NOTICE.

THE only Edition of the RACE BOOK and PROGRAMMES authorized by the Stewards of the Jockey Club and those printed by Messrs. NORONHA & CO.

T. F. HOUGH, Clerk of the Course, Hongkong, 10th January, 1909. [104]

RACE BOOKS, 1909.

FOR SALE, PRICES: LEATHER-COVERED \$2.00 each. CLOTH-COVERED 1.75 " PAPER COVERS 75 " May be had from

NORONHA & CO., Printers to the Hongkong Jockey Club. KELLY & WALSH, LTD. W. BREWER & CO., Hongkong, 29th January, 1909. [131]

HARBOUR MASTER'S DEPARTMENT.

IT is hereby notified that information has been received from the Military Authorities that GUN PRACTICE will be carried out as under:

ON THURSDAY, FRIDAY, MONDAY and TUESDAY, the 4th, 5th, 8th and 9th February, 1909, from Lyamus F.C. in the North-Easterly

direction, at ranges up to 6,000 yards, commencing at 3 P.M., and finishing at 10 P.M.

If the weather is unfavourable on any of the above dates, practice will take place on the following day.

All ships, junks and other vessels are to keep clear of the ranges.

BASIL TAYLOR, Commander, H.M. Harbour Master &c. Hongkong, 29th January, 1909. [132]

THE IMPERIAL COLONIAL CLUB.

THE above Club is formed chiefly for COLONIAL and OVER-SEAS MEMBERS; it is situated at No. 84, Piccadilly (the centre of Clobland), opposite the Green Park.

The Club has a Bridge Section, Reception, Dining, Billiard Room, Smoking Lounge, Reading Room and Library.

Ladies are eligible as Members.

Entrance Fee, Five Guineas, Annual Subscription, Five Guineas.

Further particulars from

THE ORGANISING SECRETARY,

84, PICCADILLY, W. London, 10th August, 1908. [766]

FABST BREWING COMPANY, MILWAUKEE.

FRESH SUPPLIES.

ALWAYS KEPT IN STOCK

BY SIEMSSON & CO., Agents for HONGKONG & SOUTH CHINA, Hongkong, 10th August, 1907. [133]



RIGHT

N. LAZARUS, OPHTHALMIC OPTICIAN,
CORNER OF D'AGUILAR STREET AND QUEEN'S ROAD.

WILL test your eyes free of charge, and if they are wrong will put them right.

Lenses Ground. All kinds of Repairs. Spectacles for all requirements. Ask, or write, for Illustrated Booklet on "Defective Sight,"—free.

LONDON, CALCUTTA, SHAMOHA, 1, John Street, Bedford Row, W.C. 59, Bentick Street, 63, Yauking Road Hongkong, 5th March, 1909. [132]

PEAK TRAMWAYS COMPANY LIMITED.

TIME TABLE.

WEEK DAYS.

7.00 a.m. to 9.30 a.m. ... Every 10 minutes.
9.30 a.m. to 11.00 a.m. ... Every 15 minutes.
11.30 a.m. to 12.45 p.m. ... Every 15 minutes.
12.45 p.m. to 1.15 p.m. ... Every 15 minutes.
1.15 p.m. to 1.45 p.m. ... Every 15 minutes.
1.45 p.m. to 2.15 p.m. ... Every 15 minutes.
2.15 p.m. to 3.00 p.m. ... Every 15 minutes.
3.30 p.m. to 4.00 p.m. ... Every 15 minutes.
4.00 p.m. to 5.00 p.m. ... Every 15 minutes.
5.00 p.m. to 6.00 p.m. ... Every 15 minutes.

NIGHT CARS.

6.45 p.m. and 9 p.m. 6.45 p.m. to 11.15 p.m. every half hour.

SUNDAYS.

8.00 a.m. to 9.30 a.m. ... Every 15 minutes.
9.00 a.m. to 10.30 a.m. ... Every 30 minutes.
10.30 a.m. to 12.00 p.m. ... Every 15 minutes.
12.45 p.m. to 1.15 p.m. ... Every 15 minutes.
1.15 p.m. to 1.45 p.m. ... Every 15 minutes.
1.45 p.m. to 2.15 p.m. ... Every 15 minutes.
2.15 p.m. to 3.00 p.m. ... Every 15 minutes.
3.30 p.m. to 4.00 p.m. ... Every 15 minutes.
4.00 p.m. to 5.00 p.m. ... Every 15 minutes.
5.00 p.m. to 6.00 p.m. ... Every 15 minutes.
6.00 p.m. to 6.30 p.m. ... Every 15 minutes.
6.30 p.m. to 6.45 p.m. ... Every 15 minutes.

NIGHT CARS AS ON WEEK DAYS.

Extra cars at 6.15 p.m., 11.30 p.m. and 11.45 p.m.

SATURDAYS.

Extra cars at 6.15 p.m., 11.30 p.m. and 11.45 p.m.

SPECIAL CARS by Arrangement at the Company's Office, ALEXANDRA BUILDINGS, Des Voeux Road Central.

JOHN D. HUMPHREYS & SON, General Managers.

Hongkong, 4th February, 1909. [143]

NOTICE TO SUBSCRIBERS.

FROM and after 1st January, 1909, the rates of Subscription to the Hongkong Telegraph (daily and weekly issues) will be as follows:—

DAILY—\$6 per annum.

WEEKLY—\$1 per annum.

The rates per quarter, and per month, proportional. Subscriptions for any period less than one month will be charged as for a full month.

The daily issue is delivered free when the address is accessible to messenger. Post subscribers can have their copies delivered at their residences without any extra charge.

On copies sent by post an additional \$1.20 per quarter is charged for postage.

The postage on the weekly issue to any part of the world is 30 cents per quarter.

Single Copies, Daily, ten cents. Weekly, twenty-five cents (for cash only).

(PAYABLE IN ADVANCE.)

There will be no rebate to Missionary Subscribers, as heretofore.

By Order, THE MANAGER,

Hongkong Telegraph Co. Ltd.

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Intimation.

Powell's ANNUAL CASH CLEARANCE SALE

Now
PROCEEDING.

Remnants

of

Dress

Materials,

Laces,

Ribbons,

Flannels,

etc., etc.,

at

HALF PRICE.

GREAT BARGAINS

in all

Departments.

POWELL'S

ALEXANDRA
BUILDINGS,
and28, Queen's Road,
HONGKONG.

Intimations.

THE TRADE MARKS ORDINANCE,
1908.APPLICATION FOR REGISTRATION OF
TRADE MARKS.

NOTICE is hereby given that LUEN YICK AND COMPANY, carrying on business at Victoria, in the Colony of Hongkong, and elsewhere as Flour Merchants, have, on the 20th day of October, 1908, applied for the Registration in Hongkong, in the Register of Trade Marks of the following Trade Marks:—

- 1.—The representation of a wine pot or jar and a Chinese bookcase, a bunch of flowers and leaves are depicted in the back ground; above which are written the Chinese characters 聰益公司 reading Luen Yick Kung & Co. being the name of Luen Yick & Company and the words "Drinking Pot" and below which are written the Chinese characters 酒酒圖 reading Shi Tsau To meaning "the picture of poetry and wine" and the name Luen Yick and Company.
- 2.—The representation of a Buffalo ridden by a Chinese boy coming down a hill; above which are printed the words "Herd Boy" and below which appears the name "Luen Yick & Co." On the right hand side of the mark are written the Chinese characters 童子牧牛 reading Tung Tsu Muk Ngau meaning "A boy herding cattle" and on the left hand side of the mark are written the Chinese characters 聰益公司 reading Luen Yick Kung & Co. being the Chinese name of Luen Yick and Company; in the name of LUEN YICK AND COMPANY, who claim to be the proprietors thereof.

The Trade Marks have been used by the applicants since the month of October, 1907, in respect of the following goods:—

FLOUR IN CLASS 42.

Facsimiles of the Trade Marks can be seen at the Office of the Colonial Secretary of Hongkong and also at the Office of the Undersigned.

Dated the 4th day of December, 1908.

JOHNSON, STOKES & MASTER,
Solicitors for the Applicants,
8, Des Voeux Road Central,
Hongkong.

THE TRADE MARKS ORDINANCE,
1908.APPLICATION FOR REGISTRATION OF
TRADE MARKS.

NOTICE is hereby given that SHU ON WING & COMPANY, carrying on business at Victoria, in the Colony of Hongkong, and elsewhere as Flour Merchants, have, on the 20th day of October, 1908, applied for the Registration in Hongkong, in the Register of Trade Marks, of the following Trade Marks:—

- 1.—The representation of a pot which is planted an orange tree with leaves and oranges thereon. Above which is depicted a scroll on which are printed the words "Nutmeg Orange" and below which are written the Chinese characters 四季橘 reading Si Kui Kai meaning "Four season oranges" and the name "Shu On Wing & Co." On the left hand side of the mark are written the Chinese characters 紹安榮 reading Shiu On Wing being the equivalent in Chinese of Shu On Wing & Company.

- 2.—The representation of a Kingfisher standing on a branch of a rose tree with roses growing thereon. Above which is printed the word "Kingfisher" and below which is printed the name "Shu On Wing & Co." On the right hand side of the mark are written the Chinese characters 紹安榮 reading Tsui Tsau meaning "Kingfisher", and on the left hand side of the mark are written the Chinese characters 紹安榮 reading Shiu On Wing being the equivalent in Chinese of Shu On Wing & Company.

- 3.—The representation of a plant of brassica. Above which are printed the words "White Cabbage" and below which appears the name "Shu On Wing & Co." On the right hand side of the said representation are written the Chinese characters 白菜 reading Pak Choi meaning "Brassica" and on the left hand side of the mark are written the Chinese characters 紹安榮 reading Shiu On Wing being the equivalent in Chinese of Shu On Wing & Company; in the name of SHU ON WING AND COMPANY, who claim to be the proprietors thereof.

The Trade Marks have been used by the applicants since the month of September, 1907, in respect of the following goods:—

FLOUR IN CLASS 42.

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Dated the 4th day of December, 1908.

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Solicitors for the Applicants,
8, Des Voeux Road Central,
Hongkong.

THE TRADE MARKS ORDINANCE,
1908.APPLICATION FOR REGISTRATION OF
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NOTICE is hereby given that KWONG YEE WING AND COMPANY, carrying on business at Victoria, in the Colony of Hongkong, and elsewhere as Flour Merchants, have, on the 20th day of October, 1908, applied for the Registration in Hongkong, in the Register of Trade Marks, of the following Trade Marks:—

- 1.—The representation of Bamboo trees, above which is depicted a scroll on which is printed the word "Bamboo" and below which appears the name "Kwong Yee Wing & Company". On the right hand side of the mark are written the Chinese characters 廣裕榮 reading Kwong Yee Wing being the equivalent in Chinese of Kwong Yee Wing & Company and on the left hand side of the mark are written the Chinese characters 紹竹 reading Luk Chuk meaning "Green bamboo."

- 2.—The representation of a basket inside of which are several water caltrops, above which are printed the words "Water caltrops" and below which appears the name Kwong Yee Wing & Company. On the right hand side of the mark are written the Chinese characters 廣裕榮 reading Kwong Yee Wing being the equivalent in Chinese of Kwong Yee Wing & Company.

- 3.—The representation of a plant of brassica. Above which are printed the words "White Cabbage" and below which appears the name "Kwong Yee Wing & Co." On the right hand side of the said representation are written the Chinese characters 白菜 reading Pak Choi meaning "Brassica" and on the left hand side of the mark are written the Chinese characters 廣裕榮 reading Kwong Yee Wing being the equivalent in Chinese of Kwong Yee Wing & Company.

- 4.—The representation of a plant of brassica. Above which are printed the words "White Cabbage" and below which appears the name "Kwong Yee Wing & Co." On the right hand side of the said representation are written the Chinese characters 白菜 reading Pak Choi meaning "Brassica" and on the left hand side of the mark are written the Chinese characters 廣裕榮 reading Kwong Yee Wing being the equivalent in Chinese of Kwong Yee Wing & Company.

In the name of KWONG YEE WING AND COMPANY, who claim to be the proprietors thereof.

The Trade Marks have been used by the applicants since the month of September, 1907, in respect of the following goods:—

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- 1.—The representation of a plant of brassica. Above which are printed the words "White Cabbage" and below which appears the name "Kwong Yee Wing & Co." On the right hand side of the said representation are written the Chinese characters 白菜 reading Pak Choi meaning "Brassica" and on the left hand side of the mark are written the Chinese characters 廣裕榮 reading Kwong Yee Wing being the equivalent in Chinese of Kwong Yee Wing & Company.

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Dated the 4th day of December, 1908.

JOHNSON, STOKES & MASTER,
Solicitors for the Applicants,<

Intimation.

A. S. WATSON & CO.,
LIMITED.

ESTABLISHED A.D. 1841.

HIGH-CLASS
CONFECTIONERY.We have just unpacked our NEW SEASON';
CONFECTIONERY imported from the
leading London, Parisian and American
Houses.

CADBURY'S CHOCOLATES.

In FANCY BOXES:
CHOCOLATE ALMONDS, CHOCOLATE
WALNUTS, CHOCOLATE DE LA
REINE, VIENNA CHOCOLATE and
others, in Great Variety.

FULLER'S CONFECTIONERY.

COCOANUT TAFFY, ALMOND TAFFY,
CREME APRICOTS, SUCRE DE LA
CREME CARAMELS, PEPPERMINT
LUMPS, MARS IMALLOW BALLS
&c., &c., &c.A. S. WATSON & CO.,
LIMITED.ALEXANDRA BUILDINGS
AND
KOWLOON DISPENSARY.

Hongkong, 5th January, 1909.

NOTICE.
All communications intended for publication in
"The HONGKONG TELEGRAPH" should be
addressed to The Editor, 1, Ice-House-Road, and
should be accompanied by the Writer's Name and
Address.
Ordinary business communications should be addressed
to The Manager.
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BIRTHS.

On January 20, 1909, at Tientsin, the wife of
W. R. A. TUCKEY, R.E., A.M.I.C.E., of a son.
On January 20, 1909, at Shanghai, the wife of
C. W. CUNNINGHAM, I.M. Customs, of a
daughter.On January 31, 1909, at Shanghai, the wife of
MORRIS E. COCHRANE, Royal Navy, of a
daughter.

MARRIAGE.

Sara Loiza d'Encarnação e José D'Assumpção
participaram as pessoas de suas relações o
seu casamento realizado na Igreja do Sagrado
Coração de Jesus, no dia 30 de Janeiro, p.p., e
ofereceram a sua casa.

DEATHS.

On January 31, 1909, at Shanghai, Archibald
MACLEAN, Acting First Interpreter of the
German Consulate-General and Mixed
Court Assessor, aged 31 years.On February 1, 1909, at Shanghai, GUIL
HERME HOTELHO, aged 36 years.

The Hongkong Telegraph

HONGKONG, FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 1909.

THE REHABILITATION OF
SHUM.

Has the irrepressible Tien Chun-Hsuan, otherwise known as Shum, decided that the time has come when he should no longer hide his head in darkness but come within the glare of the limelight? Everything points to that conclusion, if we may judge from the reports which appear daily in the vernacular press, especially those published in Shanghai. For nearly three years, the astute Shum, has bided his time, content to remain in idleness, while his opponents and detractors were in office, but no one who recalls the extraordinary for

tory of the ex-Viceroy's imagination or the breadth of his mental resources, can doubt for a moment that his energetic spirit has not chafed under his enforced absence from the political arena in China. Probably if Shum's personality had been less commanding and his attitude less dictatorial he might long before this have attained high position in the counsels of the Empire, but his natural impetuosity of character and his abhorrence of restraint, combined with his contempt for those whose brains were incapable of keeping pace with his own bounding projects, marked him out among the slow coaches as a dangerous man, whose ambitions would upset all their cherished notions of legislative action. There can be no question that Shum had the approval of the late Empress-Dowager, and that she recognised in him a kindred spirit. For although His Excellency is a reformer in name, he is one of the patriotic type. Western inventions and ideas are excellent in their way and may worthily be adopted by China when they have been proved to be essential to the progress and advancement of the Empire, but, according to Shum's catechism, China's salvation must be worked out by the Chinese themselves, without the aid or countenance of foreigners. That is brief in the sum and substance of Shum's political philosophy. Whether it be too narrow and circumscribed is a question which will be answered according to the hopes and aspirations and personal predictions of his critics. Regarded from a detached standpoint, it is perfectly clear that Shum's whole object is to avoid outside interference at all costs and to secure China's regeneration from within. Only his masterful ways were too much for the Grand Council at Peking. When His Excellency left his Viceroyalty at Canton in order to proceed to Peking, he confidently expected that he would be called upon to take a leading part in directing the destinies of the Empire from the capital. His reputation had preceded him, however, and his quasi-friends, decided that such a firebrand boded no good for their prospects, so that when he arrived at Shanghai he was ordered to prepare to assume the Viceroyalty of Szechuan. Although that province is reputed to be one of the wealthiest in China and the appointment was higher than that previously held by him, Shum regarded it as an Irish promotion, because it was calculated to keep him away from the seat of Government. His Excellency can see through a brick wall as well as his neighbour, and the result was that when he contemplated the prospect, he promptly decided that the time had arrived for him to become seriously ill. He remained ill at Shanghai, and enjoyed himself so famously while in that condition that nothing could induce him to budge from his bed of sickness. The most anxious inquirers were made regarding the state of His Excellency's health, but there was no moving Shum from his retreat. By another turn of the Kaleidoscope, Shum found himself figuring as the President of Posts and Communications, which meant residence at Peking and possession of one of the most important portfolios in the capital. In less than no time, His Excellency was at Peking and in office, but no sooner did he begin to realise his power than the innate character of the man began to show itself. He surrounded himself with officials devoted to his service, depleted the Southern provinces of all those able administrators who had proved themselves worthy of his confidence, established an *Imperium in Imperio*, and began a tempestuous campaign against the highest Ministers in the Empire. He impeached every high official who had ever thwarted his proposals; he called for the resignation and dismissal of those censors who had made accusations against him; he sneered at the incapacity of the Northern Viceroy and at the time he sought to ingratiate himself in the esteem of his royal mistress. In fact, Shum was the worst tycoon that ministerial circles in Peking had experienced for ages. He was an Oriental Roosevelt, William II and Castro rolled in one. His reign was meteoric and ended in a burst of flame. The united powers whom he sought to assail overwhelmed him and once again the redoubtable Shum had to seek retirement. For the last two years His Excellency has remained an outcast administrator, but nobody believed for a moment that he has not been carefully weighing the situation and awaiting his opportunity. Now that there seems to be a prepossession against several of those members whose position seemed to be as firmly buttressed that it defied attack, and Yuan Shih-kai had made a compulsory *conge* to the Court, and Tang Shao-yi, who is imbued with principles very similar to those entertained by the ex-Viceroy of Canton, is on the point of returning from his mission to America and Europe, Shum has certainly reason to anticipate that the stars are working in his favour. He has been received at Court, and he has rehabilitated himself in the eyes of the Prince Regent. What all this portends it is not difficult to foresee—the versatile and clever ex-Viceroy is once again on the way to becoming a factor in directing the affairs of the country in whose future he holds so intense faith. Should it prove that his return to favour is assured, it is certain that the fortunes of the province to which he belongs, will be so great as to enable him to keep

ob-level terms with his friends of other nationalities, is seldom a thrifty man; he is the exception who boards up the pencils and lets the pounds take care of themselves. The thrifty man usually degenerates into the miser, and, indeed, the thrifty mind is a narrow, prejudiced state which as a rule prevents the possessor from dealing with the larger propositions of life. So absorbed is the holder that in the effort to save a cent he is apt to overlook the chance of acquiring a fortune. But then, of course, there is thrifit and thrifit. A man may be thrifit without being parsimonious but it is seldom that the thrifit person can escape the aspersion of being described as mean.

THE THRIFTY SCOTSMAN.

An exceedingly diverting article on the subject of thrifit—which has been occupying the minds of a good many people in England and Scotland lately—appears in the *Strata Times*, from the pen of its London correspondent. The question is whether thrifit is all that it is cracked up to be, or whether it is played out. The writer discusses the question as it arises over the Old Age Pensions scheme, which came into force on the 1st of January, and the speech which Lord Rosebery delivered at Edinburgh at a savings bank meeting. Discussing the question of thrifit with a friend in the National Liberal Club the correspondent declares that: "The Duke of Sutherland was quite right when she said the poor no longer need the patronage and protection of the rich. It seems to me that 'the poor' can look after themselves very well, and it is the people who are not poor enough to qualify for old-age pensions who need the protection nowadays. The Liberal to whom I have referred is an old China hand, who, by early enterprise and frugal habits and abstention from matrimony, has succeeded in compiling a moderate competency, and now finds that his early carelessness and thrifit (to prevent misconception, I may mention that he is an Englishman) makes him responsible for the education of other people's children and the provision of old-age pensions for others who but did their talents in the earth or live to the full extent of their incomes and refused to be trammelled by considerations of the future. Here I am, said my friend, at the age of 55, unable to add to my slender income, with a fall in the capital value of some of my investments, losses on others, and a shrinkage in the value of the dollar, £1 per £, more than that comfortable-looking

Irish M.P., over there because his is an earned income and mine is classed as a Foreign Security! It is enough to drive us out of the country, and if my favourite Italy were not so eruptive, I have serious thoughts of settling there." Branching off to another aspect of the same problem the writer holds with Lord Rosebery, that "the trend of legislation during the past quarter of a century is tending to sap the spirit of independence, perhaps I should say the individuality, which was once the outstanding characteristic of Scotsmen. Are we about to witness a universal campaign in favour of thrifit? A Singapore merchant recently wrote a letter on the subject, the President of the United States inculcated it in a recent edict, a

member of the German Reichstag pointed out the necessity for it, and now Lord Rosebery has taken up the subject where Smiles left off, and is preaching the doctrine of national thrifit as well as individual provision for the proverbial rainy day. It almost seems that a campaign is needed, for Mr. George Barnes, who is one of the Labour Members of Parliament, addressing 1,200 University Extension students at Oxford in August, 1907, is reported to have said:—"I am a Scotchman, I am glad to turn my back on my own country; and why? Because Scotland is the land of thrifit, and thrifit is played out nowadays." That is certainly a new proposition which will cause a good many Scots in the Far East to smile. But there's many a true word said in jest and perhaps there is more in the remark than meets the eye. Still on the subject of thrifit, some letters received by a gentleman who was engaging assistants for Singapore form an amusing reading. A young man writing from Derby said:—"I have had to decline to become a candidate for the vacancy on account of the climate, as I do not consider my health could stand the heat. It stands to reason, Singapore cannot be a very healthy place; it is, one might say, an ideal place for a brawny Scotchman—not for a wisp of an Englishman like myself." This young man had evidently never heard of the judge who was advised to refrain from giving his "reasons." Why it should stand to reason that Singapore is not healthy because it is warmer than England passes our comprehension; but why it should be an ideal place for a Scotsman will puzzle most readers—or a parity of reasoning. There is obviously something wrong with the reasoning capacity of our Derby friend, and perhaps it is as well for Singapore that he should spare it his presence. Of course that letter is not precisely an argument for or against thrifit, but it is an interesting illustration of how many Englishmen regard Scotsmen. The fact of the matter is that Scotsmen are not exactly thrifit, using the word in the sense of penurious; they have a faculty of reaching out and grabbing sums of importance and by some manner of means managing to stick to those respectable amounts when they get them. The average Scotsman on a miserable salary, or on a salary, that barely suffices to enable him to keep

A MARRIAGE has been arranged, and will take place on Feb. 6, between Leslie Waller, son of the late Edmund Waller (an early resident of Tientsin), and May, eldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Beringer.

OVER £450,000 will go to the Treasury in death duties on five estates, the wills relating to which have recently been proved. These include that of the late Mr. Harry Barnato, whose property is returned as of the value of £2,500,000 "at least."

THE death is reported at Tientsin of Mr. C. Lenox Simpson, of the Imperial Maritime Customs. Mr. Simpson came out to join the I.M.C. in the early sixties, and has been a Commissioner for upwards of thirty years. Until recently he was stationed at Ningpo.

The high officials in the Peking Government have been consulting with one another with regard to following the example of the Throne, which has contributed £15,000 to the relief of sufferers from the Italian earthquake. It is proposed that each should make a contribution to the fund."

REAR-ADmiral Frederick Wilbraham Egerton, R.N., died on 4th ult., at Chelton Cottage, Alresford, Hants, at the age of 70. He served in the operations in China, being employed in cutting the boom across the mouth of the Peiho in June, 1859. He reached the rank of captain in 1858, and was placed on the retired list in 1885.

It is stated that H.E. Viceroy Tuan Fang, at Nanking, established a Chinese school designed to receive students from among Chinese residents in foreign colonies as a reward for the patriotism shown by those Chinese on many occasions. It has had a good attendance, and lately, another batch of over fifty students has arrived from Singapore. They will shortly begin their studies in the school.

It is stated that H.E. Viceroy Tuan Fang entertains a project of establishing an Engineering College in Shanghai and is considering the purchase of the Ta Shu Company's (Chinese Publishing Co.) new printing office on the Chinese Bund for the College buildings. The price of the buildings is agreed at £15,000 and His Excellency proceeded to inspect them in the afternoon of the 31st ultimo.

It is reported that Prince Su will be appointed to the Presidency of the Yuchuanpu in place of Chen Pi, who will be removed as a result of his impeachment by the Censors, and his post of President of the Ministry of the Interior will be given to Prince Yu Liang, the present Commandant of the Gendarmerie. It is also reported that H.E. Chang Chih-tung, the present Commissioner of the Water Police, is still lying in the hospital in Canton, the result of his operation for appendicitis, for which he had an operation on Sunday. He never rallied and died in the afternoon of the 31st ultimo.

We regret to record the death at the General Hospital of Mr. A. W. Maclean, of the German Service. Mr. Maclean, who, as his name implies, was of Scotch descent, came out to Shanghai in 1904, and since his absence on leave of Mr. Schirmer has been acting as German Assessor at the Mixed Court. Death was due to appendicitis, for which he had an operation on Sunday. He never rallied and died in the afternoon of the 31st ultimo.

YAU-MA-TI ARMED ROBBERY.

THE SHOOTING OF LANCE-SERGEANT MILLS.
HOLDING AT THE MAGISTRACY.

The wave of indignation which passed over Hongkong when the news was made known that an unprecedented outrage had been perpetrated on Chinese New Year Eve by a band of armed ruffians whereby a policeman met his death and the murderer himself shot down by the dead man's comrade, is doubtless fresh in the minds of many. This afternoon, as a result of the sad incident, seven men were arraigned before Mr. J. R. Wood at the Magistracy, charged with the murder of the late Lance-Sergeant Mills. Deputy-Superintendent of Police King prosecuted, while the prisoners were undefended. Before proceeding with the chief business of the afternoon, the charge of murder was withdrawn and only that of armed robbery allowed to stand. The only charge of armed robbery was withdrawn in the case of two of the men (3rd and 4th defendants) while one (7th defendant) was discharged.

Li Chiu, the keeper of an iron foundry and an engineering establishment, residing at 43 Kennedy Street, Yau-ma-ti, was the first to be called to the witness box. He said that his house was robbed on the night of the 21st January last. He left Hongkong about 8 o'clock that evening and arrived at his shop about an hour later. He entered his shop and began to talk with his assistants (a *foh* and an accountant). Between ten and eleven o'clock, five persons entered the shop as they were sitting down. Each of them was armed with a revolver, which they pointed at the inmates, driving them to one side. One of them demanded the keys of the safe, and after searching for them, found them and proceeded to open the safe and appropriate the contents. Witness and his two assistants were tied together by the accused. After taking away whatever money they could, they left the shop and started to run. Witness gave chase and shouted "Thief!" After turning a corner somebody was heard to blow a whistle. There was an instant custody by a Chinese detective. At the time of the robbery, there were two lights burning in the house, one hanging inside the shop and another in the accountant's room. They pointed their revolvers at him and ordered him to maintain silence on pain of death. There were five of them who were carrying out their nefarious plans, but of these, witness was not in a position to identify except one, as he kept chasing him all the time. He could not say which of the accused demanded the safe keys, as they turned his face to the wall. There was about \$4,300 in the house (about \$3,000 in notes and the rest in coins). The reason why he did not deposit the money in a bank was because he always found it safe in his own house. After the safe had been opened by the burglars and its contents rifled, the account books were found scattered about the floor. Among the goods thus stolen, was a watch.

The accountant's evidence was taken and after further depositions, the case was remanded.

CRICKET.

HONGKONG CRICKET CLUB.

"A" Team v. The Police.

The following have been selected to represent the "A" team in the above match tomorrow afternoon, commencing at 2.15 p.m. on the Club's ground:—W. C. D. Turner, H. R. Makin, A. E. Lannlog, Lt. H. B. Mullaux, R. N. A. E. Fowler, E. C. Oliver, R. N. A. P. Dashwood, J. H. Chalmers, E. Irving, J. Hall and E. C. Hagen.

CRAIGENGOWER v. R.G.A.

This match will take place on Saturday at 2.15 p.m. on the former Club's ground. Craigengower team:—L. E. Lammer (capt.), G. A. Hancock, A. O. Bravos, R. Bass, W. H. Viveash, H. L. Manderson, A. Osman, J. D. Noria, R. Pestonji, L. A. Ross and S. B. Battiswal.

LEAGUE TABLE.

The following is the table up to date:

Club.	P.	W.	L.	D.	P.	Percent.
H. K. "B"	8	8	0	0	8	100.0%
Civil Service	11	9	1	1	8	80.0%
Hongkong "A"	8	4	1	3	3	60.0%
Telegraphs	10	2	1	1	5	55.5%
Craigengower	11	3	4	4	—	14.28%
R. G. A.	9	2	6	1	—	50.0%
Kowloon	11	2	9	0	—	63.63%
H. K. Police	9	1	7	1	—	75.0%
Royal Engineers	9	1	7	1	—	75.0%
N.B.—A win counts 1 point						
A loss						
A draw						

Mr. Edison has invented a new electric storage battery which, it is declared, will revolutionise tramway traffic all over the world. He calls it the "battery of perpetual youth," because it practically will not wear out, and can be operated over hundreds of miles without recharging. It is constructed on entirely new lines. Nickel is used instead of lead, while a new combination of chemicals is introduced to the plates of the present acids, with the result that the nauseating fumes produced by the present battery are absent.

The King has been pleased to give and grant unto Thomas Blake Glover, Esq., His Majesty's Royal Licence and authority to accept and wear the Insignia of the Second Class of the Order of the Rising Sun, conferred upon him by His Majesty the Emperor of Japan; to Ernest Woodburn Trotter, Esq., Deputy Commissioner of Police at Hongkong, the Fourth Class of the Order of the White Elephant, conferred upon him by His Majesty the King of Siam; and to Patrick Donavan, Esq., a member of the Chinese Customs Service, the Third Class of the Third Division of the Imperial Chinese Order of the Double Dragon, all of which are conferred in recognition of valuable services.

Telegrams.

"HONGKONG TELEGRAPH" SERVICE.

STAMP DUTY.

ENFORCEMENT ABOLISHED.

[By courtesy of the "Sheung Po".]

Peking, 4th February.

The Grand Councillors have decided to do away with the proposal for the enforcement of a stamp duty.

The office established at Tientsin for that purpose has been closed.

CHINESE OFFICIALS.

NEW TITLES PROPOSED.

[By courtesy of the "Sheung Po".]

Peking, 4th February.

A certain Grand Councillor has applied for permission to bring into operation the new titles of officials, but the Prince's recent points out that as long as the evils (attached to the respective offices) are not eradicated, a mere change of titles will effect no good.

OPPIUM CONFERENCE.

RETURN OF VICEROY TUAN FANG.

[By courtesy of the "Sheung Po".]

Shanghai, 4th February.

His Excellency Viceroy Tuan Fang, principal Chinese Imperial Commissioner at the International Opium Conference, will return to Nanking on the 5th inst.

[H.E. Tuan Fang, the Viceroy of Nanking, who is acting as the High Commissioner from the Chinese Government on the International Opium Commission, arrived at Shanghai by special train from Soochow at 3:15 p.m. to-day reports the *China Gazette* of 30th ult. A vast crowd of spectators had assembled at the Railway Station to meet His Excellency, including the Tantai Tsai, Mr. Li, the City Magistrate, and Mr. Pan, Mixed Court Magistrate.

There were at least a thousand people assembled at the railway station to greet this distinguished visitor. The station had been prettily decorated for the occasion with bunting. The official entrance to the Station was lined on both sides with Constables from the Paoban Police Force and blue-jackets from the Chinese men-of-war in the harbour. A carpet had been laid from the exit of the railway carriage across the platform to the point where His Excellency's private carriage was in waiting.

A delegation of about fifty officials in their official robes had been admitted to the platform to meet His Excellency when he stepped off the railway carriage. Mr. W. U. Pope, the General Manager of the Shanghai-Nanking Railway, and deputies from the Shanghai Tantai, accompanied H.E. Tuan Fang on the journey from Soochow. On His Excellency's arrival several of the Railway's officials were introduced to him by Mr. Pope. H.E. Ju Cheng, Provincial Treasurer of Kiangsu province, another Commissioner to the Opium Conference, was also a passenger on the same train.

After the usual formalities, H.E. proceeded to his private carriage to the Foreign Office, in Bubbling Well Road. As his carriage departed, the Chinese marine band played a few selection of patriotic music.]

DEUTSCH-ASIATISCHE BANK.

NEW BUILDING AT TIENSIN.

The *China Critic* (Tientsin) of 26th ult. says:—This morning, from before noon to after 1 p.m., the portals of the new German Bank buildings in Victoria Road were open to a crowd of visitors, who went to offer their congratulations to the manager, Mr. Th. Rehm, his assistant Mr. Frickhofer and the staff of the bank, upon the result of the enterprise just completed.

The gentry included the Consular Corps, the manager and staffs of all the other Banks in town, as well as Major V. Barfus and his staff and the leading residents in the port, English, French, German, Russian, Italian, Austrian and Japanese, and the editors of the local papers.

After a hearty welcome and a glass of wine, just at noon, when most of the guests had arrived, Mr. Ballauf, at the oldest German resident, asked those present to charge their glasses; and he then, in a few well-chosen words, offered the congratulations of all the guests to Mr. Rehm and his staff on the completion of the magnificent set of buildings, duly opened to-day, which were a credit to the architect, the builders, and the Bank itself, as well as an ornament to the town. He alluded to the fact that the Bank had been established here some time, and was as popular with the other Banks as it was with its own clientele, and he wished it every success, long to remain here working in friendly competition with the others, under the successful management of the present manager and his assistants, to be of use to the German community, the merchants and the brokers.

Needless to say this speech was received with much enthusiasm, and was drunk with bangers three; after which Mr. Rehm replied in short but suitable terms, and an inspection of the whole building was made by the visitors, who then took a walk of light refreshments.

The *China Critic* (Tientsin) after 1 p.m.

INTERNATIONAL OPIUM COMMISSION

OPENING CEREMONY.

The following report is taken from the *N. C. D. News* of and inst.—The opening of the International Opium Commission yesterday attracted considerable attention in this Settlement. It was the principal topic of conversation during the day, and the large crowd that assembled outside the doors of the Palace Hotel to witness the arrival and departure of the Chinese officials and the delegates was a convincing proof of the widespread interest which was taken in the event.

The hour fixed for the opening ceremony was 11 a.m., and most of the delegates were on the scene of their future labours well ahead of time. The Viceroy himself set a good example in this respect. His Excellency's brougham, escorted by Sikh troopers and a detachment of native police on their unkept but sturdy ponies, arrived at the hotel entrance at 10:15. From then until 11 there was a constant stream of arrivals; and both the electric lifts of the hotel were working at full pressure to carry all the visitors to the top floor.

The room in which the Commission meets is a commodious chamber at the East end of the new block, down a corridor opposite the main dining room. In close proximity are the offices of the American and Chinese Delegations, in the latter of which the Viceroy remained until the time for the ceremony arrived.

The session hall of the Commission is suitably furnished for the occasion with comfortable chairs and about twenty baize-covered tables, while the walls of the room are hung with the national flags of the respective delegations. Seats were allocated by lot, each nationality drawing from a box the number of its table.

Attendance at the opening ceremony was strictly limited. Only the delegates, the Viceroy's suite and a few representatives of the native and foreign press were admitted.

The entrance of China's High Commissioner was the signal for all present to rise to their feet, and they remained standing while the Viceroy, escorted by the members of his Foreign Department, threaded his way across the room, and mounted the Chairman's dais. Taking his seat, with a graceful sweep of his hand the Viceroy invited his audience to be seated. A photograph of this audience was then taken, after which in low tones H.E. Tuan Fang explained the reason of his presence. He rose to his feet when reading the Decree appointing him High Commissioner for the special purpose of opening the Commission, and everyone in the room stood until the reading of the Imperial mandate was finished. Another wave of the Viceroy's hand and the audience resumed their seats. The Viceroy himself sat down, adjusted his spectacles, and then, in almost inaudible tones began to read his address. In a few seconds he appeared to gain confidence and raised his voice, so that most of his words could be heard throughout the room. Occasionally he paused in his reading, had a hurried consultation with one of his staff, and altered some phrase that was not to his liking. The speech was read from a crumpled manuscript, in which several corrections and additions had already been made.

Having concluded the reading of his speech the Viceroy called upon Taotai Wan to read the English translation, and a minute or two later was engaged in audible conversation with a member of his staff.

Taotai Wan came to the front of the platform, and read the translation of the Viceroy's address in loud clear tones. The translation read was as follows:

Gentlemen.—On the 20th of September, 1906, an Imperial Edict was issued prohibiting the cultivation and use of Opium throughout the Empire within the period of ten years. According to a Report from the Ministry concerned the result of an inquiry into the question shows that up to the present progress has been made in reducing the area under cultivation of the poppy plant in the various provinces.

As a matter of fact, the area where the poppy has been cultivated in the Kiangnan portion of Kiangsu province, has been now reduced by eight per cent while it is on record that from the six provinces of Shansi, Yuenan, Fukien, Anhui, Honan and Hsientung-liang, or Northern Manchuria, memorials have been presented to the Throne reporting that the cultivation of the poppy will be entirely stopped by the winter of the present year in the above provinces. Even more than that, the gentry and merchants of the various provinces of the Empire have everywhere started societies to extort and assist opium smokers to get rid of the baneful habit. For instance, we have an Association in Fukien province known as the Anti-Poison Society which has been making considerable progress in its campaign against the drug.

Indeed, from the present outlook, together with the state of public opinion throughout our Empire, there are great hopes that the consumption of opium can be stopped in its entirety before the end of the prescribed limit of ten years.

To-day it is my good fortune to be present at this International Conference, having been appointed by Imperial Rescript to open the proceedings. I am convinced that the countries of the world recognize the benevolence and philanthropy which have led to the gathering of the present Conference in the interests of civilization, and I may state that the people of our whole Empire are most grateful for it. It will need more eloquence than mine fittingly to express the cordial welcome with which our country bids the inauguration of this International Opium Conference, but I may take this opportunity, first, respectfully to tender the thanks of my Government and that of the people of this Empire to the American Government for initiating the movement which has brought about this Conference, and, next, to thank the Governments of the various countries here represented for so heartily joining in it.

As the Representative of the whole Empire, I beg leave to give this Conference some of our English in its deliberations.

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Needless to say this speech was received with much enthusiasm, and was drunk with bangers three; after which Mr. Rehm replied in short but suitable terms, and an inspection of the whole building was made by the visitors, who then took a walk of light refreshments.

The *China Critic* (Tientsin) after 1 p.m.

I may be permitted to express my belief that this Conference will be principally guided by feelings of reason, benevolence, and philanthropy in its desire to eradicate a poison and a bane to mankind. This being universally recognized, it becomes us to put aside all prejudices of nationality and race and be guided solely by that world-wide philanthropy and enlightenment which have brought about this International Conference. For instance, the manner in which the Governments of the countries concerned have set about to stop the consumption of opium in their colonies and dependencies such as Formosa, Annam, the Philippine Islands, Java, etc., has been to undertake the monopoly of the sale of opium there, a procedure which China alone has not yet put into actual force. As a matter of fact, the mere prohibition of opium without the Government having the monopoly of the sale of the drug will prevent the Government from learning the number of persons suffering from the habit, nor can it put into effect any laws for the suppression of opium consumption. Mr. Leech, Counsellor of the British Legation in Peking, has stated—"Whether China can completely oblige the good she seeks, without government control of opium, both native-grown and imported, is somewhat doubtful," an opinion which gains my deep admiration for his wisdom and far-sightedness and merits our sincere thanks for his warm sympathy in our endeavours. What, however, is to be apprehended is that Chinese merchants importing opium may claim that such a step will be contrary to former treaties and be disadvantageous to their trade and so oppose it, thereby preventing China from putting into effect a proper control over opium and the spread of the opium prohibition throughout the country. Thus not only will it not agree with the sincere intentions first expressed by the British Government to give every assistance to China but also be a hindrance to the movement initiated by the American Government; nor will it enable the various countries represented in this Conference to show their unanimity in assisting this Conference to solve the questions before it. This is a matter to be regretted, indeed, and it is my earnest hope that this Conference will thoroughly go into this matter during its deliberations.

It was at first intended to limit the abolition of opium in the Empire to ten years, but the various provinces have been able so to reduce the cultivation of the poppy that it would seem that this cultivation may be entirely stopped within the next couple of years. Moreover, the sale of prepared opium has also been rapidly reduced to over one half, so that we may certainly be able entirely to stop the sale and consumption of the native-grown opium within the prescribed limit of ten years. With the complete stoppage of our native-grown opium it would follow that the importation of the foreign drug will also stop as a natural sequence. Such being the case the stoppage of my country will have reason to congratulate themselves on what has gone before and this we will owe to the assistance given by the British Government and to the labours of the American Government in initiating the movement which brought about this Conference. On the other hand the attempts of the Government to suppress opium are hampered by existing treaties. Should a way be found by which such clauses as that restrict the freedom of my Government in its work of abolishing the consumption of the drug in the Empire may be got over, so that we may succeed in accomplishing our great and important task—fortunate indeed will it be for our Government and the people of this Empire. It is my earnest hope that this Conference will use its best endeavours to thresh out this question.

On the whole, since the main object of this Conference will be to consider the question of putting a stop to the consumption of opium, fortunate indeed will it be for the whole world if by the labours of the Conference a way be found to shorten the limit and bring about the abolition of opium at an early date. I do not think that national interests and division of races will be brought forward and produce difficulties between our countries, thereby hampering the work of opium abolition.

What is the meaning of the phrase "to seek for gain and yet fear to overcome difficulties?" The honourable gentlemen who are present this day as members of the Conference have all been selected by their respective Governments for their benevolence, philanthropy and fame. Since such is the case, I am certain that no one amongst this distinguished assembly will act contrary to the benevolent and enlightened objects which have brought them together here. I will therefore be the first to declare to this Conference that the Government and people of my country are determined to succeed in their object and will not by any means turn aside from accomplishing the task before them.

As to the methods to be employed in accomplishing this end, the main idea will be to prohibit the cultivation of the poppy, the sale of the drug and the consumption thereof. It is only to be apprehended that in putting into effect the law for this prohibition it may conflict with certain clauses of the treaties. It is my hope that this Conference will carefully investigate the matter beforehand so that there may be no misunderstandings in the future. In this my speech I do not know whether I have been successful in gaining the approval of the honourable gentlemen of this distinguished assembly, but I am anxious to receive such suggestions as may be instructive to me from this honourable assembly, whereby I shall indeed be fortunate. Therefore, I now declare this Conference open.

Immediately after the Viceroy's speech had been read, Mr. Ratard, Consul-General and Secrétaire Commissioner for France rose, and addressing the Viceroy in French, preferred a request that French should be the official language of the Commission. He referred to the Walpuri's order that the French tongue should be the official medium of diplomatic intercourse and asked that, if not the language of the Commission, it should be placed on an equality with English in its deliberations.

I beg leave to give this Conference some of our English in its deliberations.

The following extract from the *China Critic* (Tientsin) of 26th ult. says:—

"This morning, from before noon to after 1 p.m., the portals of the new German Bank buildings in Victoria Road were open to a crowd of visitors, who went to offer their congratulations to the manager, Mr. Th. Rehm, his assistant Mr. Frickhofer and the staff of the bank, upon the result of the enterprise just completed.

The gentry included the Consular Corps, the manager and staffs of all the other Banks in town, as well as Major V. Barfus and his staff and the leading residents in the port, English, French, German, Russian, Italian, Austrian and Japanese, and the editors of the local papers.

After a hearty welcome and a glass of wine, just at noon, when most of the guests had arrived, Mr. Ballauf, at the oldest German resident, asked those present to charge their glasses; and he then, in a few well-chosen words, offered the congratulations of all the guests to Mr. Rehm and his staff on the completion of the magnificent set of buildings, duly opened to-day, which were a credit to the architect, the builders, and the Bank itself, as well as an ornament to the town. He alluded to the fact that the Bank had been established here some time, and was as popular with the other Banks as it was with its own clientele, and he wished it every success, long to remain here working in friendly competition with the others, under the successful management of the present manager and his assistants, to be of use to the German community, the merchants and the brokers.

Needless to say this speech was received with much enthusiasm, and was drunk with bangers three; after which Mr. Rehm replied in short but suitable terms, and an inspection of the whole building was made by the visitors, who then took a walk of light refreshments.

The *China Critic* (Tientsin) after 1 p.m.

To-day's Advertisements.

HONGKONG AND SHANGHAI BANKING CORPORATION.

NOTICE is hereby given that the REGISTER OF SHARES of the Company will be CLOSED from TUESDAY, the 9th instant, to SATURDAY, the 12th instant, (both days inclusive), during which period no Transfer of Shares can be registered.

By Order of the Court of Directors,
J. R. M. SMITH,
Chief Manager,
Hongkong, 5th February, 1909. [147]

PUBLIC AUCTION.

THE Undersigned have received instructions to sell by PUBLIC AUCTION, FOR ACCOUNT OF THE CONCERNED, on

TUESDAY, the 9th February, 1909, at 11 A.M. at the Police Compound, Central Police Station, SUNDAY CONDEMNED, OBSOLETE and CONFISCATED STORES.

ALSO A Quantity of ARMS and AMMUNITIONS TERMS:—As usual.

HUGHES & HOUGH,
Government Auctioneers,
Hongkong, 5th February, 1909. [148]

FROM EUROPE.

THE H. A. L. Steamship

"CONSTANTIA,"
Captain Habel, having arrived, Consignees of Cargo are hereby requested to send in their Bills of Lading for countersignature by the Undersigned and to take immediate delivery of their goods from alongside.

Optional Cargo will be forwarded unless notice to the contrary be given before 10 A.M. on TUESDAY, the 9th February, 1909.

Any Cargo impeding her discharge will be landed at consignees' risk into the hazardous and/or extra hazardous Godowns of the Hongkong and Kowloon Wharf and Godown Company, Limited, and stored at Consignees' risk and expense.

All Claims must be presented within ten days of the steamer's arrival here after which date they cannot be recognized.

No Claims will be admitted after the Goods have left the Godowns, and all Goods remaining undelivered after the 12th inst. will be subject to rent.

All broken, chafed, and damaged Goods are to be left in the Godowns, where they will be examined on the 11th inst., at 3 P.M.

No Fire Insurance has been effected.

HAMBURG-AMERIKAN LINIE,
Hongkong Office,
Hongkong, 5th February, 1909. [149]

the slightly increased rate of \$10. Shell transports remain unchanged. Star Ferries, old and new, have buyers at quotations.

Refineries—China Sugars have been in good demand and have been sold at rising rates up to \$10. Perak Sugars are wanted in the North at Tls. 100.

Mining—Chinese Engineering are obtainable at the slightly improved rate of Tls. 14. Raubs have been dealt in to a fair extent at \$88.

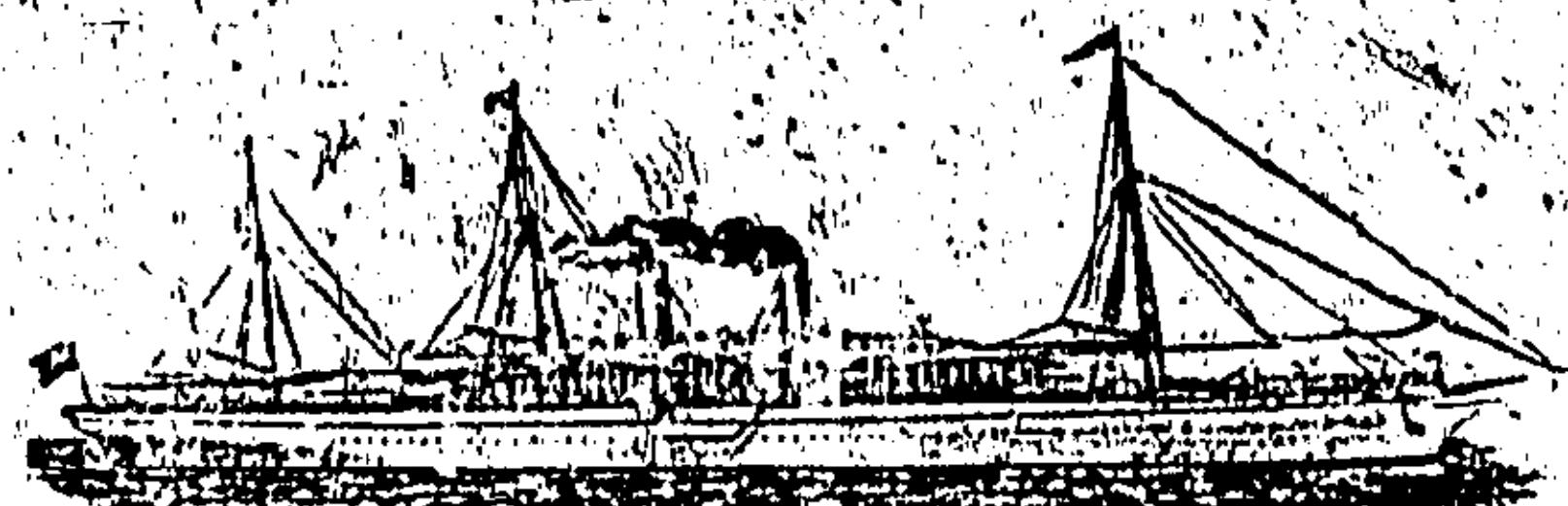
Docks, Wharves and Godowns—Whampoa Docks, after sales at \$92 during the early part of the week, are on offer at the close at Spt. Kowloon Wharfs have been sold at \$45, closing with further buyers. Shanghai Docks are firmer and buyers prevail in the North at Tls. 77. Hongkew Wharfs are offering at Tls. 155, after sales at Tls. 154.

Lands, Hotels and Buildings—Anglo-French Lands are in demand at Tls. 102. There are buyers of Hongkong Lands at \$90, but sellers are not forthcoming. Humphreys Estates have declined to \$9, at which rate they are required for Kowloon Lands are offering at \$13. According to the report for the year ending the 31st December, 1908, just issued to shareholders, the profit and loss account, including the sum of \$653,66 brought forward from last account after writing off all charges and expenses amount to \$9,28,90. It is proposed to pay a dividend of 1/4 per share to shareholders and after payment of directors and auditors' fees, there will be a balance of \$27,890 to be carried forward to new profit and loss account. Shanghai Lands are offered at Tls. 120.

Cotton Mills—Ewos are weaker with sellers at Tls. 85. Hongkong Cottons are unchanged at Tls. 100.

Shipping—Steamers.

CANADIAN PACIFIC RAILWAY COY'S
ROYAL MAIL STEAMSHIP LINE.



Luxury—Speed—Punctuality.

The only Line that Maintains a Regular Schedule Service of under 12 Days across the Pacific is the "Empress Line." Saving 5 to 10 Days' Ocean Travel. 12 Days YOKOHAMA to VANCOUVER. 21 Days HONGKONG to VANCOUVER. PROPOSED SAILINGS (Subject to Alteration). R.M.S. LEAVE HONGKONG ARRIVE VANCOUVER

"EMPEROR OF CHINA" ... 6,000 S (TURDAY, Feb. 13th) ... March 5th
"MONTEAGLE" ... 6,163 TUESDAY, Mar. 2nd ... Mar. 26th
"EMPEROR OF INDIA" ... 6,000 S (TURDAY, Mar. 13th) ... April 2nd
"EMPEROR OF JAPAN" ... 6,000 S (SATURDAY, April 10th) ... April 30th
"EMPEROR OF CHINA" ... 6,000 S (TURDAY, May 1st) ... May 22nd
"MONTEAGLE" ... 6,063 TUESDAY, May 11th ... June 4th
"EMPEROR OF CHINA" (steamship) will leave Hongkong at 7 A.M.

S.S. "MONTEAGLE" at 11 Noon.

THE Quickest route to CANADA, UNITED STATES and EUROPE, calling at SHANGHAI, NAGOYA, (through the INLAND SEA of JAPAN), KOBE, YOKOHAMA, and VICTORIA, B.C., connecting at VANCOUVER with a Special Mail Express, and at QUEBEC, with the Company's New Palatial "EMPEROR" Steamships, 14,500 tons register, thus providing a comfortable and speedy through route to Europe.

Hongkong to London, 1st Class Canadian Atlantic Ports or New York £71.10.

Hongkong to London, Intermediate on Steamers, and 1st Class on Railways... £40. " £42.

First-class rates to London include cost of Meals and Birth in Sleeping Car while crossing the American Continent by Canadian Pacific direct line.

R.M.S. "MONTEAGLE" carries "Intermediate" Passengers only, at Intermediate rates, affording superior accommodation for that class.

Passengers Booked through to all points and AROUND THE WORLD.

SPECIAL THROUGH RATES (First class only) granted to Missionaries, Members of the Naval, Military, Diplomatic and Civil Services, and to European Officials in the Service of China and Japan Governments.

For further information, Maps, Routes, Hand Books, Rates of Freight and Passage, apply to U. W. GRADDOOK, General Traffic Agent for China, &c., Corner Pedder Street and Praya, Opposite Blake Pier.

INDO-CHINA STEAM NAVIGATION CO., LTD.

(PROJECTED SAILINGS FROM HONGKONG—SUBJECT TO ALTERATION).

For Steamship On HANGSANG! ... SATURDAY, 6th Feb., Noon.
SHANGHAI, SINGAPORE, PENANG & CALCUTTA, SINGAPORE, MONDAY, 8th Feb., 4 P.M.
ESANG! ... TUESDAY, 9th Feb., Noon.
SHANGHAI, SINGAPORE, PENANG & CALCUTTA, SINGAPORE, WEDNESDAY, 10th Feb., Noon.
MANILA, YUENSANG! ... FRIDAY, 12th Feb., 4 P.M.
MANILA, LUONGSANG! ... FRIDAY, 19th Feb., 4 P.M.
SHANGHAI, YOKOHAMA, KOBE, KUTSANG! ... TUESDAY, 2nd Mar., Noon.
& MOJI

RETURN TOURS TO JAPAN.

OCCUPYING 24 DAYS.

The steamers *Kuiliang*, *Nanfang* and *Foekang* leave about every 3 weeks for Shanghai and Yokohama returning via Kobe (Inland Sea) and Moji to Hongkong, providing a stay of 5 to 6 days in Japan if passengers leave the steamer at Yokohama and rejoin at Kobe.

These vessels have all modern improvements and are fitted throughout with Electric Light.

A duly qualified surgeon is also carried.

Steamers have superior accommodation for First-class Passengers, and are fitted throughout with Electric Light.

Taking cargo on through Bills of Lading to Yangtze Ports, Chefoo, Tientsin & Newchwang.

For Freight or Passage, apply to

JARDINE, MATHESON & CO., LTD., General Managers.

Telephone No. 61. Hongkong, 5th February, 1909.

16

CHINA NAVIGATION CO., LIMITED.

SAILINGS SUBJECT TO ALTERATION:

FOR STEAMERS: TO SAIL
SHANGHAI "ANHUI" ... 7th Feb., Daylight.
TSINGTAU, WEIHAIWEI & CHEFOO "HANYANG" ... 8th ... 4 P.M.
PAKHOI & HAIPHONG "SINGAN" ... 9th ... 10 A.M.
MANILA "TEAN" ... 9th ... 3 P.M.
MANILA "TAMING" ... 16th ...
MANILA, ZAMBOANGA and USUAL } "TAIYUAN" ... 26th ... 4 P.M.
AUSTRALIAN PORTS ... } MANILA, ZAMBOANGA and USUAL } "CHANGSHA" ... 8th April,

MANILA and TIENTSIN STEAMERS have superior Passenger accommodation with Electric Light throughout and Electric Fans in the Staterooms and Dining Saloon.

AUSTRALIAN STEAMERS have superior accommodation with Electric Light throughout and Electric Fans in the Staterooms. A duly qualified Surgeon is carried. Cargo booked through for all Australian, New Zealand and Tasmanian Ports.

SHANGHAI STEAMERS have good Saloon Passenger accommodation and take cargo on through Bills of Lading to all Yangtze and Northern China Ports.

N.B.—Reduced Saloon Fares, Single and Return, to Manila and Australia.

For Freight or Passage, apply to

BUTTERFIELD & SWIRE, AGENTS.

Telephone No. 36. Hongkong, 5th February, 1909.

18

HONGKONG—MANILA.

Highest Class, newest, fastest and most luxurious Steamers between Hongkong and Manila.—Saloon midships—Electric Light—Perfect Cuisine—Surgeon and Stewardess carried.—All the most up-to-date arrangements for comfort of Passengers.

CHINA AND MANILA STEAMSHIP COMPANY, LIMITED.

Steamship Tons Captain For Sailing Dates

RUBI ... 2540 R. W. Almond ... MANILA SATURDAY, 6th Feb., at Noon.

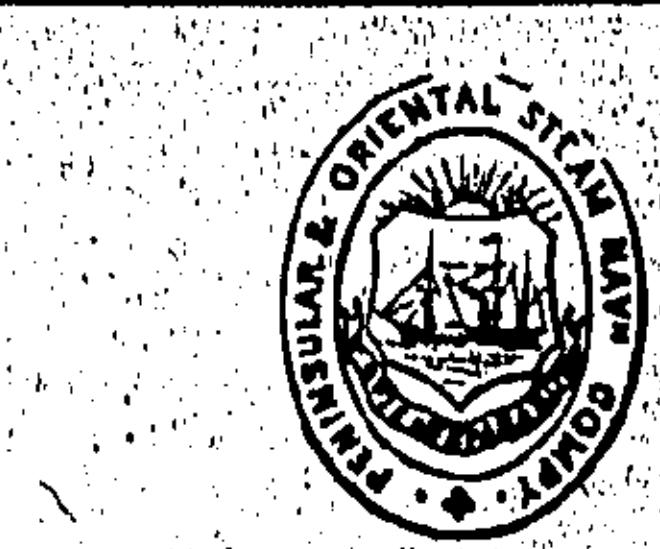
ZAFIRO ... 2540 R. Rodger ... SATURDAY, 13th Feb., at Noon.

For Freight or Passage, apply to

SHEWAN TOME'S & CO. GENERAL MANAGERS.

Hongkong, 5th January, 1909.

Shipping—Steamers.



THE PENINSULAR AND ORIENTAL STEAM NAVIGATION COMPANY.

STEAM

FOR STRAITS, Ceylon, AUSTRALIA, INDIA, ADEN, EGYPT, MEDITERRANEAN PORTS, PLYMOUTH AND LONDON.

(Through Bills of Lading issued for BATAVIA, PERSIAN GULF, CONTINENTAL, AMERICA and SOUTH AFRICAN PORTS.)

THE Steamship

"DEVANHA,"

Captain W. Hayward, R.N.R., carrying His Majesty's Mails, will be despatched from BOMBAY, etc., TO-MORROW, the 6th February, at Noon, taking Passengers and Cargo for the above Ports in connection with the Company's 8,000 tons, 11,000 tons, from Colombo, Passengers' accommodation in which vessel is secured before departure from Hongkong.

Silk and Valuables, all Cargo for France, and Tea for London (under arrangement) will be transhipped at Colombo into the Mail steamer proceeding direct to Marseilles and London, other Cargo for London, &c., will be conveyed via Bombay by the R.M.S. *Caledonia*, due in London on 19th March, 1909.

Parcels will be received at this Office until 4 P.M. the day before sailing. The Contents and Value of all Packages are required.

For further Particulars, apply to

E. A. HEWETT,

Superintendent.

Hongkong, 25th January, 1909.

14

THE BANK LINE LIMITED.

Taking cargo on through Bills of Lading to all Overland Common Points in the United States of America and Canada, and also for the principal ports in Mexico, and Central and South America.

PROPOSED SAILINGS FROM HONGKONG

FOR VICTORIA, B.C., SEATTLE & TACOMA, VIA MOJI, KOBE AND YOKOHAMA.

Steamer Tons Captain Sailing Date

Sovereign ... 6,232	W. Shotton,	10th Feb.
Gymner ... 4,002	J. C. A. Hall	11th Mar.
America ... 6,232	F. S. Cowley	6th April
America ... 4,789	R. J. Howie	6th May

These steamers are specially fitted for the carriage of Asiatic Steerage passengers.

PARCEL EXPRESS TO THE UNITED STATES AND CANADA.

For further information, apply to

DODWELL & CO., LIMITED.

General Agents.

Hongkong, 20th January, 1909.

15

PHILATELIC NOVELTY

fitable for PRESENTS.

BAGS OF USED POSTAGE STAMPS

Containing:

All Asiatic Stamps. All Chinese Stamps. 4,000 for \$800. 1,000 for \$450.

3,000 " 700 " 3,000 " 350 "

2,000 " 500 " 2,000 " 250 "

700 " 200 " 1,000 " 150 "

300 " 100 " 500 " 100 "

Also Stamps in Packets and Sets, and other Philatelic Requisites, at prices to suit every body.

VIEW POSTCARDS, ALBUMS, HINGES,

RAPHAEL TUCK'S TOY BOOKS AND

RELIEF SCRAPS.

MANILA CIGARS AND CIGARETTES,

&c., &c., &c.

Inspection invited.

GRACIA & CO.,

No. 37, Des Voeux Road.

16

STEAM TO CANTON.

THE New Twin Screw Steel Steamers

"KWONG TUNG" ... Capt. H. W. WALKER.

"KWONG SAU" ... Capt. E. S. GROVE.

Leave Hongkong for Canton at 9 every evening, (Saturday excepted).

Leave Canton for Hongkong at 5.30 every evening, (Sunday excepted).

These fine new steamers have unexcelled Accommodation for First Class Passengers and are lit throughout by Electricity. Electric Fans in First Class Cabins.

Passage Fare—Single Journey ... \$4.

Meals \$1.15 each

The Company's Wharf is situated in front of the New Western Market, opposite the old Harbour Office.

YUEN ON S.S. CO., LTD.,

and

SHIU ON S.S. CO., LTD.

No. 1, Queen's Road West.

Hongkong, 1st January, 1909.

17

LADIES' and CHILDREN'S UNDERCLOTHING.

Samples on application. Coast

Port orders carefully executed.

Hongkong, 1st January, 1909.

18

Shipping—Steamers.

THE AMERICAN AND ORIENTAL LINE.

FOR BOSTON AND NEW YORK.
(With liberty to call at the Malabar Coast.)

THE Steamship

"HEADLEY,"

will be despatched for the above Ports on or about FRIDAY, the 13th February, 1909.

For Freight, apply to

ARNHOLD, KARBERG & CO.,

Agents.

Hongkong, 15th January, 1909.

19

FOR MARSELLS, LONDON AND ANTWERP.

Taking cargo on through Bills of Lading to all Ports in the United Kingdom and the Continent.

THE Steamship

"MONTGOMERYSHIRE,"

will be despatched as above on or about the 23rd inst.

For Freight etc., apply to

JARDINE, MATHESON & CO., LTD.,

Agents.

Hongkong, 3rd February, 1909.

20

REGULAR STEAMSHIP SERVICE TO NEW YORK,

VIA PORTS AND SUEZ CANAL,

(With liberty to call at Malabar Coast.)

SHARE QUOTATIONS.

Supplied by Messrs. E. S. Kadoorie & Co. Corrected to noon; later alterations given under "Commercial Intelligence," page 5.

STOCKS	NO. OF SHARES	VALUE	PAID UP.	POSITION AS PER LAST RPT RT	AT WORKING ACCOUNT	LAST DIVIDEND	APPROXIMATE RETURN AT 10% ON QUOTATION, BASED ON LAST YEAR'S DIV.	CLOSING QUOTATIONS
BANKS.								
Hongkong & Shanghai Banking Corporation	120,000	\$125	\$125	{ \$1,500,000 } \$14,000,000 \$20,000,000	\$2,005,774	Interim of £2 for first half year @ 2%	5% 1/2% \$21,942	\$805 sellers London £66
National Bank of China, Limited	99,925	£7	£6	{ £4,000 } \$120,000	\$10,223	£2 (London 3/6) for 1903	...	£52
MARINE INSURANCES.								
Canton Insurance Office, Limited	10,000	\$150	\$50	{ \$1,500,000 } \$223,757 \$411,990 \$125,000	none	£14 for 1907	7% %	\$100 sellers
North China Insurance Company, Limited	10,000	£15	£5	Tls. 160,512	Tls. 150,000 Tls. 303,747 Tls. 118,277	Final of 7/6 making 15% for 1907	5% %	Tls. 100 buyers
Union Insurance Society of Canton, Limited	2,400	\$150	\$100	{ \$1,000,000 } \$102,478 \$130,005 \$137,649	\$2,500,012	Final of 5/6 making \$45 for 1906 and Interim of \$30 for 1907	5% %	\$80 sellers
Yangtze Insurance Association, Limited	12,000	£100	£60	{ \$1,000,000 } \$100,000 \$105,000 \$105,157	\$501,763	£12 and bonus £3 for 1906	8% %	\$187 buyers
FIRE INSURANCES.								
China Fire Insurance Company, Limited	10,000	\$100	£10	{ \$1,000,000 } \$140,007 \$13,802	\$372,432	£6 and bonus £2 for 1906	7% %	\$106
Hongkong Fire Insurance Company, Limited	8,000	\$150	£50	{ \$1,000,000 } \$148,027	£100	£10 for 1906	8% %	\$330
SHIPPING.								
China and Manolin Steamship Company, Limited	30,000	£15	£10	{ \$7,000 } \$264,638 \$399,667	\$1,055	£1 for 1906	...	£5 sellers
Dong's Steamship Company, Limited	70,000	£50	£50	{ \$350,000 } \$187,500	Nil	£2 for year ending 30/6, 1908	7% %	£134 buyers
Hongkong, Canton & Macao Steamboat Co., Ltd.	20,000	£15	£15	{ \$17,755 } \$17,655 \$10,000	£13,755	£12 for first half-year ending 30/6, 1908	8% %	\$197 buyers
Indo-China Steam Navigation Co., Ltd. (Preferred)	60,000	£15	£5	{ £10,000 } \$140,000	£10,000	£1 for 1907 on Preference shares only @	5% %	£57
do. (Deferred)	60,000	£15	£5	{ £10,000 } \$140,000	£10,000	£1 for 1907 on Preference shares only @	5% %	£17
Shanghai Tug and Lighter Company, Limited (Preference)	200,000	£10	£10	{ £12,750 } \$12,750,000	Tls. 14,510	Interim of Tls. 12 for account 1908	7% %	Tls. 473 buyers
do. "Shell" Transport and Trading Company, Limited	2,000,000	£10	£10	{ £6,000 } \$6,000	£6,817	Second interim of £1/2 for a/c 1908	6% %	Tls. 52 buyers
"Star" Ferry Company, Limited	10,000	£10	£5	{ £6,000 } \$6,000	£98	£100 for year ending 30/4, 1908	4% %	£31 buyers
Tak, T., and Lighter Company, Limited	3,000	£10	£10	{ £6,000 } \$6,000	Tls. 6,869	£12 for first half-year ending 30/6, 1908	8% %	£197 buyers
REFINERIES.								
China Sugar Refining Company, Limited	20,000	100	100	{ £1,000 } \$100,000	Dr. 529,871	£18 for year ending 31/12, 1908	...	£127 buyers
Luino-Sugar Refining Company, Limited	7,000	100	100	{ £1,000 } \$100,000	Dr. 535,132	£18 for year ending 31/12, 1908	...	£18
Perak Sugar Refining Company, Limited	7,000	100	100	{ £1,000 } \$100,000	Dr. 54,173	£18 for year ending 31/12, 1908	...	Tls. 100 buyers
MINING.								
Chibot Enzane and Mining Company, Ltd.	1,000,000	£1	£1	{ £17,500 } \$14,280	£11,550	Final of 1/6 (Coupon No. 11) for year ending 29/2, 1908	7% %	Tls. 161 sellers
Rob Australasia Gold Mining Company, Limited	150,000	£1	£10	{ £1,500 } \$14,280	Dr. 52,191	£12 of £1/2 = £6 ex d. sellers	...	\$81 sales
Docks, HARVES & GODOWNS.								
Fenwick (Gen.) & Co., Limited	18,000	£25	£25	{ £5,000 } \$5,000	£5,726	£1.75 for year ending 31/12, 1908	...	£12
Hongkong & Kowloon Wharf and Godown Co., Ltd.	60,000	£10	£10	{ £10,000 } \$10,000	£5,556	£1.50 for 1907 making £3 for 1907	7% %	£45 sales
Hongkong and Whampoa Dock Company, Ltd.	50,000	£50	£50	{ £76,193 } \$70,000	£384,847	Interim of £4 for account 1908	8% %	£90 sellers
Shanghai Dock and Engineering Co., Ltd.	55,700	£100	£100	{ £1,000 } \$1,000	Tls. 33,743	Interim of Tls. 24 for 6 months ending 31st October, 1908	6% %	Tls. 771 buyers
Shanghai and Hongkew Wharf Company, Limited	36,000	£100	£100	{ £1,000 } \$1,000	Tls. 22,626	Interim of Tls. 4 for account 1908	11% %	Tls. 155 sellers
LANDS, HOTELS & BUILDINGS.								
Anglo-French Land Investment Co., Ltd.	25,000	Tls. 100	£5,100	{ Tls. 25,000 } \$150,000	Tls. 5,532	Tls. 6 for 1907	6% %	Tls. 102 buyers
Astor House-Hotel Company, Limited (Shanghai)	30,000	£15	£15	{ £1,000 } \$100,000	Dr. 52,191	£2 for year ending 30/6, 1907	...	£148 buyers
Central Stores, Limited	50,181	£15	£15	{ £1,000 } \$100,000	£9,178	£1.80 for 1906	...	£90 buyers
Hongkong Hotel Company, Limited	12,000	£50	£50	{ £1,000 } \$100,000	£14,639	Interim of £3 for account 1908	7% %	£90 buyers
Hongkong-Land Investment and Agency Co., Ltd.	50,000	£100	£100	{ £1,000 } \$100,000	£26,475	Final of £3 for 1907 making £7 for 1908	8% %	£90 buyers
Humphreys Estate & Finance Company, Limited	50,000	£10	£10	{ £1,000 } \$100,000	£24,021	50 cents for 1907	7% %	£33 sellers
Kowloon Land and Building Company, Limited	7,000	£50	£50	{ £1,000 } \$100,000	£563	£1 for 1907	5% %	Tls. 120 sellers
Shanghai Land Investment Company, Limited	78,000	£10	£10	{ £1,000 } \$100,000	Tls. 107,517	Interim of £3 for account 1908	7% %	£44 ex d. sellers
West Point Building Company, Limited	2,500	£10	£10	{ £1,000 } \$100,000	£968	Final of £2 making £4 for 1908	9% %	
COTTON MILLS.								
Two Cotton Spinning and Weaving Company, Ltd.	15,000	£10	£10	{ £1,000 } \$100,000	Tls. 8,810	Tls. 5 for year ended 31/10, 1908	5% %	Tls. 85 sellers
Hongkong Cotton Spinning, Weaving and Dyeing Company, Limited	12,500	£10	£10	{ £1,000 } \$100,000	£5,553	50 cents for year ending 31/7, 1908	5% %	99 buyers
International Cotton Manufacturing Company, Ltd.	10,000	Tls. 75	£15	{ £1,000 } \$100,000	Tls. 8,373	Tls. 6 for year ended 30/9, 1908 (8%)	...	Tls. 76
Laon-kung-mow Cotton Spinning & Weaving Co., Ltd.	8,000	£100	£100	none	Tls. 6,308	Tls. 8 for 1906	...	Tls. 80 sellers
Soy Chao Cotton Spinning Company, Limited	1,000	£100	£100	{ £1,000 } \$100,000	Tls. 50,068	Tls. 50 for 1906	...	Tls. 280 sellers
MISCELLANEOUS.								
Bell's Asbestos Eastern Agency, Limited	8,000	£10	£10	{ £1,500 } \$100,000	£648	£101 per 5 stars, or 1907 = £1,037	11% %	89 buyers
China-Borneo Company, Limited	60,000	£10	£10	{ £1,000 } \$100,000	Nil	£1.20 for 1907	10% %	£111 buyers
China Light and Power Company, Limited	50,000	£10	£10	{ £1,000 } \$100,000	61,138	60 cents for year ended 28/2, 1908	8% %	£5 buyers
China Provident Loan & Mortgage Company, Ltd.	125,000	£10	£10	{ £1,000 } \$100,000	£3,593	60 cents for 1907	5% %	£14 sellers
Dairy Farm Company, Limited	40,000	£7	£7	{ £1,000 } \$100,000	£48	£1.30 for year ending 31/7, 1908	5% %	
Green Island Cement Company, Limited	400,000	£10	£10	{ £1,000 } \$100,000	£5,078	Interim of 40 cents for account 1908	10% %	£98 sellers
H. Price & Company, Limited	12,000	£10	£10	{ £1,000 } \$100,000	£525	75 cents for 9 months ending 31/12, 1907	8% %	£101 buyers
Hall & Holt, Limited	21,000	£20	£20	{ £1,000 } \$100,000	£18,957	£1 for year ending 28/2, 1908	10% %	£221 buyers
Hongkong Electric Company, Limited	60,000	£10	£10	{ £1,000 } \$100,000	£9,321	£1 and 20 cents 20/2, 1908 for year ending 29/2, 1908	8% %	£222 sellers
Hongkong Ice Company, Limited	5,000	£25	£25	{ £1,000 } \$100,000	£4,578	£1 and 20 cents 20/2, 1908 for year ending 29/2, 1908	8% %	£223 sa. and b.
Hongkong Rope Manufacturing Company, Ltd.	60,000	£10	£10	{ £1,000 } \$100,000	£8,191	Interim of £1 for account 1908	7% %	£224 buyers
Maat-chappi, i.e. Mijn, Hsich-ku Lantbouwer, plantations in Langkun, Limited	25,000	£100	£100	{ £1,000 } \$100,000	£1,472,500	4th Quarterly div. of Tls. 10, and bonus of £1, to making £50 to date	5% %	Tls. 860 buyers
Peak Tramways Company, Limited	25,000	£10	£10	{ £1,000 } \$100,000	£5,000	80 cents on fully paid shares and 6 cents on 51/2 paid shares for year ending 30/4, 1908	6% %	£14 buyers
Philippine Company, Limited	75,000	£10	£10	{ £1,000 } \$100,000	Nil	None	...	£22 buyers
Shanghai Gas Company, Limited								

The Hongkong Telegraph.

MAIL SUPPLEMENT.

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BIRTHS.

On January 3, 1909, to Mr. and Mrs. E. A. Hamilton, C. M. S., a daughter, IRENE THEODORE.

At Haskow, on January 17, 1909, the wife of

LAURENCE B. NOVACK, of a daughter.

On January 20, 1909, at Tientsin, the wife of

W. R. T. TUCKEY R.E., A.M.I.C.E., of a son.

On January 22, 1909, at Shanghai, the wife of

Mr. W. TAFFENDER, of a son.

On January 24, 1909, at Shanghai, to Mr. and Mrs. JAMISON, a daughter.

On January 25, 1909, at Shanghai, the wife of

W. M. MOWAT LAW, of a son.

On January 26, 1909, at Shanghai, the wife of

C. W. CUNNINGHAM, I. M. Customs, of a daughter.

On January 31, 1909, at Shanghai, the wife of

MORRIS E. COCHRANE, Royal Navy, of a daughter.

MARRIAGES.

On the 5th Jan., at St. Paul's, Knightsbridge, by the Rev. Canon Walpole, D.D., Rector of

Lambeth, assisted by Rev. H. Hughes, of St. Paul's, Knightsbridge, NEWTON J. STABE, of

the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation, Hongkong, to ETHEL MARIE, eldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. A. M. Townsend, of

Wellington Court, Knightsbridge.

On January 22, 1909, at Shanghai, WALTER BURT ANDREWS, to EDITH SARAH WATKINS, both of Shanghai.

On Monday, January 23, 1909, at Shanghai, HARRY GEORGE HILL, of Messrs. 1a, Canterbury & Co., to Jina, only daughter of Leon Blitman, Mosk, Western Russia.

On January 26, 1909, at Shanghai, ARTHUR WILLIAM, son of Arthur, Branklyn of Whalley Bay, Lancashire, Northumberland, and

ELIZABETH, daughter of the late Septimus

Davies, of Macclesfield, England.

DEATHS.

On January 2, 1909, suddenly, at Amfield, Rothsay, JAMES HALL (late of Shanghai) in his 61st year.

On January 22nd, at Shanghai (of meningitis) RICHARD CLAUDIOUS CUTLER (DICK) HOOLEY, aged 8 years, dearly loved and only son of Henry and Kathleen Hooley.

On January 31, 1909, at Shanghai, ARCHIBALD MACLEAN, Acting First Interpreter of the German Consulate-General and Mixed Court Assessor, aged 31 years.

On February 1, 1909, at Shanghai, GUERHME HOTELHO, aged 36 years.

what they find to be the actual conditions prevailing in the archipelago. These observers will report faithfully, but if there is no sign that the natives are co-operating with the Government in securing the prosperity and permanence of new industries the real value of such an exposition as that which opens to-morrow will be to a large extent lost. At the same time we may appreciate the motives which have induced the Government to support the exhibition and the hope of all interested in the scheme will be that the natives may be roused from their lethargy and led to the state of mind which is necessary for the future welfare of the American Colony.

reasons which it would be unprofitable to enter into. The commercial outlook, however, shows an easier tone and the caution exhibited by the Japanese banks should make for stability and confidence.

MR. J. R. MICHAEL'S SCHEME OF CURRENCY REFORM.

(and February.)

Mr. J. R. Michael, whose interpolations at company meetings in Hongkong some years ago, prior to his departure for England, used to brighten and lend at least passing interest to the deliberations of these usually sedate gatherings, is still manifesting profound interest in the doing of financial affairs in China. His appearances at the meetings of the China Association in London have generally been marked by sharp criticism of the work done by that body, and he has not been slow to indicate the course his energies should adopt. The China Association is composed of men who have had great experience in China, conditions in various directions, men who have thoroughly proved their administrative ability in commercial and administrative circles, and men who have grown grey in service in China. These facts, however, do not make it certain that their views are always in conformity with the ideas of the new generation which has taken their places at the front, and it is just possible that in some respects continued residence in England in retirement may have blunted and lessened their perspective faculties, and rendered less keen their opinions as to the best methods of reform that should be introduced if China is to take her proper place in the family of nations. While such facts may be true, it is unlikely that they have forgotten the many schemes of financial reform which were submitted and came to naught, as the result of the obstinacy of Chinese officialdom to waive any portion of the benefits they obtain under the existing system. But the fact that the Chinese Government has made so many promises to reform the currency and left those promises unfulfilled must have a blighting effect on those who, hoping for a modicum of relief, found that the years went past without anything being done. Great things were expected from the ratification of the Mackay Treaty, by which the Chinese Government pledged itself to inaugurate a uniform national currency throughout the Empire, but seven years have passed and there is little or no sign that the authorities are earnestly desirous of taking that crucial step, which would mean infinite possibilities for China's future and place foreign business on a more satisfactory footing. In October last, it may be remembered, a memorial was presented by the Imperial Council to the Chinese Government, suggesting that something should be done in the direction of reforming the currency system and that memorial seems to have attracted attention in London. It certainly fired the optimistic imagination of Mr. J. R. Michael, and when the China Association suggested that members might submit their views as to what would prove the best method of carrying the memorial into effect, he was one of the first to draw up a memorandum embodying his ideas on the subject. It is certainly an interesting and complex document. Whether the reader agrees with Mr. Michael or not, he must admit that the frame of the scheme has been at immense pains to formulate a plan of operations. The only thing is that in our opinion Mr. Michael is far too ambitious and places far too much confidence in the utterances of the Chinese Government. Not only so, but his scheme seems to us to be abnormally elaborate and, if all its clauses are taken into consideration, somewhat premature. If the Chinese currency system is to be changed at all it must be by gradual and almost imperceptible degrees, not by the complete overturn of settled methods at a day's notice. In his memorandum Mr. Michael expresses his optimism in clear language when he says: "A Memorial of the Government Council (Hui I Cheng Wu Ch'u) on the question of a uniform national currency for China and an Imperial Decree dated the 5th October, 1908, have been published recently and as they seem to indicate that the Government of China are at last alive to the necessity of improving the economical position of their Country and earnestly bent on making a radical change in their system of currency some personal views, derived from a study of the question extending over many years, may not be out of place at a time when a single false move may have the effect of seriously retarding the economical progress of the country. That China is slow to move is a charge that has often been laid at her door, but it may well be in most cases as it certainly is in this case, that slowness and circumspection will be conducive to her ultimate well-being." There is both optimism and caution in these opening sentences although the caution is not always exhibited throughout the remainder of the memorandum. He proceeds to argue that what China is suffering from at present is: 1. The need for a national uniform currency. 2. The need for a fixed relationship between the different coins and the sycees, i.e., between copper cash, copper cents, silver coins and sycees. 3. The need for a fixed relationship between China's confused currency and the gold currency of the rest of the world. 4. A general depression of trade measurably due to the three previous needs. The absence of a fixed relationship between the different types of coin and the sycees has hampered both the internal and the external trade of China with depreciations and discounts of every kind, and the want of a fixed relationship between the currency of China and that of the rest of the world has resulted in fluctuations between the values

of gold and silver of as much as 30 to 35 per cent, within the last eighteen months.

After proceeding to advocate the adoption of a stable currency on a gold basis, following the example of Russia, India, the Philippines, Indo-China and Mexico and suggesting the advice of foreign experts in political economy should be taken by China.

Professor J. R. Michael being indicated as the adviser preferred, Mr. Michael remarks:—

memorandum to the home body the underlying idea of which was that instead of closing the opium houses, the number of chests drawables yearly by the Farmer should be steadily reduced. The details were worked out upon the figures for the past three years and commenting upon this the branch wrote as follows:—"The number of chests actually drawn by the Farmer during the last three years is exceptionally low. These years have been bad years in every respect and the period is too short to give a fair average. The average for the last 10 years is slightly over 1,200. In view of this figure it is, in the opinion of this committee, justifiable to recommend that:—(1) The divans be not interfered with during the period of the present farm, but that, the number of chests drawables be reduced from 1,800 to 1,200 per annum. (2) That in the new contract, to be made in 1910, the number be reduced to 1,000 chests per annum. (3) That in 1913 a scheme of annual reduction be adopted, the details of which shall depend upon the progress of China's efforts to eradicate poppy cultivation." It may be true that no reply has yet been received from England as to whether those recommendations have proved acceptable or not, but that need not have prevented the publication of the correspondence, so far as it went, in full. Then there was the question of opium monopolies, a question which has been revived by the remarkable and dramatic speech of His Excellency Tuan Fang, at the opening of the International Opium Commission of Shanghai. Anything relating to the efforts of the Chinese authorities to divert the opium traffic from legitimate traders and disregard the British treaty of Nanking and the French treaty of Tientsin must unquestionably prove of interest to the people of this community, and a mere summary of so important a matter, even though it be written by the most talented and sagacious précis writer in the Far East, is bound to be wholly inadequate. Mr. Stewart in his speech said in a spirit of jocosity that to deal adequately with the subject of opium "would perhaps require a historical survey reaching back through misty centuries to the time when Chinese junks traded as far west as the Persian Gulf." Perhaps that might be the case if anybody desired at the present juncture to acquire an actual and special knowledge of the drug habit since the days of the Moabites, but we are far too keenly concerned with present day facts and prospects to dream of indulging in such fantastic studies and speculations. For these and many other reasons, we feel that the local branch of the China Association would have chosen the better path had it decided to continue the practice of former years and provided that appendix to the annual review which invariably "proved" the most interesting section of the proceedings. Not that anybody would expect the Committee to violate the confidence of those who wished their correspondence to be held as private, but there are surely matters of sufficient interest outside that which would have well repaid the cost of publication. If the Hongkong branch of the China Association when it resolved to eliminate the usual appendix were following the example of the Government in expunging from the official *Gazette* all that pertained to the doings of the Colony outside the movements of petty officials, because it was determined to be economical at all costs; then the China Association was following an exceedingly bad example. Mr. Stewart devoted most of his remarks at the meeting yesterday afternoon to a series of speculations regarding the progress of the Kowloon-Canton railway, but as the Government has decided to make periodical statements showing how the work of construction is proceeding we need not discuss the views of Mr. Stewart on this subject, interesting though they were. On the whole, we are disappointed with the microscopic character of the details regarding the action of the Association on matters of supreme public importance during the past eventful year, and we trust that when next the Association signifies its intention to take the business community into its confidence it will come to the task in a much more expansive spirit than it has exhibited on this occasion.

THE PARI-MUTUEL IN JAPAN.

With the approach of the Hongkong Race Meeting, and the consequent interest evoked in questions connected with racing generally, attention may be directed to the hardships which have overtaken jockey clubs in Japan through the harsh and inconsiderate action of the Japanese authorities. Reference has been made to this subject before, when an outline was given of how those responsible for the maintenance of law and order at the race courses had peremptorily ordered the expulsion of pari-mutuels without apparently rhyme or reason. As the race clubs had invested large sums of money in establishing courses, erecting stands, and encouraging the sports, it was but natural that they should offer a vigorous protest when it was proposed to withdraw from them one of their principal sources of income. They fought strenuously for a time, and it seemed as if they were likely to be successful. Indeed, if we remember aright a race meeting was held at Kobe with pari-mutuel attachments either immediately before or immediately after the act of restriction had come into force. Some Pecksniffian individual, boiling over with the essence of conscious rectitude, and gifted to the full with the talent of moral quackery, rushed into print to declaim against the atrocious scenes he witnessed when European men and even European women fought and tussled and scrawled for tickets at the pari-mutuel. He wrote anonymously, of course, and to this day the people of Kobe have nothing but vituperation for a certain party who is believed to have been the author of the ridiculous fulmination. What made matters worse was that there were only a few European ladies present at the meeting, and the fact that an unknown Judas should fulfil and traduce those ladies and cull from his diseased imagination alleged facts, which bore no semblance of truth and were simply the outpourings of an enlarged spleen, roused Kobe to such a pitch of wrath that had the identity of the author been proved he could

have had a sorry time of it, to say the least. The fact also that he admitted he wrote from hearsay made matters ten times more disgraceful in the eyes of Kobe Europeans. But the author never confessed his share in the production and apparently the matter has dropped. But the fury of the racegoers was really the outcome of their quarrel with the authorities for having stopped the pari-mutuel. The Japanese race clubs appealed to the Government to protect their interests, and demanded to know why it had been decided to abolish the innocent form of recreation known as the pari-mutuel. Every body who has attended a race meeting knows perfectly well that a race loses half its interest for the mere spectator if he has not a little "flutter" on its result. Of course if a man goes to the races to make a fortune and squanders his money in the mad lust of gambling pure and simple the case is different, but the average man who bets a trifle on a pony for fun's sake is only doing what people do in a game of cards—just to make the game more interesting—and is neither a moral pervert nor an abandoned wretch. We cannot tell whether the action of the Japanese authorities has been undertaken in the cause of morality or what, but it seems likely that they will stand by their guns. The race clubs have now petitioned the Diet for the rescinding of the prohibition against the pari-mutuel and the spokesman for the clubs himself and the spokesman for the Government the various judicial bodies formed to conduct race-meetings had invested capital amounting to between six and seven hundred thousand yen each in the case of the larger organisations and to some two hundred thousand yen in the case of the smaller clubs. This money, which was obtained from shareholders or by raising loans, was expended with the encouragement of the Government, the understanding being that the clubs should act as organs for the improvement of horses. The Government also sanctioned the employment of the pari-mutuel, which was essential to the successful holding of horse-race meetings. It was consequently extremely harsh for the Government, after granting concessions for the establishment of the Companions, to suddenly take away their chief means of support, especially as, only a few days before that action was taken, the authorities had announced that it was not intended to interfere with the pari-mutuel. With reference to the accusations brought against the race meetings he said that not a few people spoke of horse-racing encouraging gamblers and ruffians, but if the question was fairly looked at, it was found that the sport had many good and valuable points. When it was remembered that among the Presidents or Honorary Presidents of the Japanese Race Clubs were members of the houses of Peers and Representatives and Triches of the Imperial blood, and that Sir C. Macdonald, the British Ambassador, was the President of the Nippon Race Club, it must be conceded that horse-racing could not be regarded as the pursuit merely of gamblers and the like. It might be, however, that it would be right for the Government to permanently prohibit the pari-mutuel. It might be right, too, for it to absolutely put an end to horse-racing, but, if the question is fairly looked at, it was found that the sport had many good and valuable points. When it was remembered that among the Presidents or Honorary Presidents of the Japanese Race Clubs were members of the houses of Peers and Representatives and Triches of the Imperial blood, and that Sir C. 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China Association.

ANNUAL MEETING.

A YEAR'S WORK.

The annual general meeting of the Hongkong Branch of the China Association was held in the City Hall, last Tuesday afternoon. Mr. Murray Stewart, chairman of the committee, presided, and there were also present:—Mr. H. E. Tomkins, Mr. G. H. Ross, Mr. J. W. C. Bonnar, Mr. W. G. Humphreys, Mr. E. G. Barrett, Mr. H. R. B. Hancock (Committee), Mr. A. S. D. Couland (hon. secretary), Hoo, Mr. W. J. Gresson, Hon. Mr. H. E. Pollock K.C., Messrs. E. Shelling, J. R. M. Smith, J. C. Peter, G. S. Gubbay, J. Armstrong, W. S. Bailey, D. K. Moir, D. Macdonald, G. Morton Smith, J. D. Auld, E. F. Mackay, A. Forbes, J. Cochrane, and E. A. G. May.

The Chairman said:—The notice calling this meeting and the annual report having been together in your hands for some days I presume that the formality of reading them may be dispensed with, and accordingly I propose to proceed at once with our first business,—the consideration of the report. In moving its adoption, I should perhaps explain its form: its form differs from that of most of those which have preceded it. Most of these have contained an appendix in which has appeared much of the year's correspondence. This time no letters have been printed in full. The reason for that is twofold. For one thing the proportion of correspondence requiring to be treated as confidential was last year larger than usual. This is not in any degree due to a desire on the part of your committee to shroud their doings in mystery. Confidential treatment of correspondence has in all cases been imposed upon us; we merely keep faith in thus dealing with it. I mention this because I have seen it suggested that your Committee is absurdly enamoured of secretive methods. The notion is a mistaken one. Our correspondence is at times open to the inspection of members, but all of it is not necessarily therefore suitable for publication. As regards correspondence not requiring to be treated confidentially, the reason why it does not appear is simply that it seemed on re-consideration to be insufficiently interesting for reproduction in detail. As I am mainly responsible for this I feel free to state the fact. By way of doing penance, I volunteered to wade through these two formidable bundles of stale stuff which you see on the table, picking out the least interesting passages, and stringing them together in a brief relation of the year's work, thus enabling you rapidly to scan it, and to set at a glance what we have been doing. My object was to save your patience. Some of the patience that saved will I hope be available for supplementary reference to the topics touched upon.

The first is for the moment the threaband. We sympathise with the desire of the British community of Tientsin to maintain a British Post Office. We rest in hope. There is nothing else to be done in the meantime. The same remark applies to the lottery ticket question, while the adage "least said soonest mended" precisely meets the present case of the boycott. Concerning the problem of the protection of Trade Marks its vital importance to the prospects of British commerce in the Far East need not be enlarged upon. Diplomatic conventions can do something towards solving it; but its complete solution depends more upon the advent of a worldwide spirit of fair play. For that we have still to pray.

Railway matters call for more detailed comment. The day when it will be possible to take a ticket from Kowloon to Calais seems still provokingly remote. Of great strides towards the realisation of this dream I wish we could hear more. As a beginning I wish we could even see good reason to believe that it will soon be Canton to take a ticket from Kowloon to Canton. I wish there were good grounds for hoping that the Chinese section of the line thither will be completed as soon as the British section. I wish we could ascertain that the acquisition of the requisite land was being pushed forward vigorously. Unfortunately we know that it is not. For some reason there is delay. Money for the purpose has been handed over in various instalments to the official responsible, but still the business hangs fire. The difficulties of acquiring land for the Yuen Han Railway have been overcome with comparative ease. What is it that makes the difficulties on the Chinese section of the Kowloon line so much more formidable? No wonder in this Colony we ask the question with some impatience.

As regards the reference in the report to the work of construction on the Kwangtung section of the Canton-Hankow railway a word of explanation is necessary. The rapid progress recently made was noted with satisfaction. The particulars are public property. Forty-four miles of track are open to traffic. Two trains run daily over the whole distance. Each way the journey takes three hours. This does not exactly indicate the top speed of the train. In the 44 miles are 12 stoppages. Additional trains run regularly to a half-way station some 20 odd miles out from Canton. Already the stimulating effect is apparent. It is not only that villagers throng the train. That fact is patent to any casual observer. A fact not so readily realised is that there is also the beginning of a local freight traffic—cattle and vegetables coming into Canton from the country—fish going out to inland villages. As a local line the success of the undertaking is already assured. Precisely because of that there is danger. There is danger lest the management should see no further than that. The directors are drawn chiefly from the local gentry and merchants. It is probable that few of them have travelled widely. It is possible that some of them have never travelled at all. It is therefore open to doubt whether they realise to the full the possibilities opening out of the little station yard at Wongsha. Failure to realise those possibilities now will result in curtailing them hereafter. If the railway is ever to be operated as part of a great trunk line and a large local traffic is to run simultaneously, a double track in the immediate vicinity of Canton will become a necessity, and there will be pressing need for more room at the terminus. It will be well for the future of the enterprise if these things are realised and acted upon promptly. The price of both land and labour will rise as the influence of increased facilities of communication makes itself felt. The directors should look ahead. They have the history of the short-sightedness of any number of other pioneer directors, similarly situated in other countries, to guide them. The criticism thus elaborated is made in no carping spirit. It is made in a friendly spirit. It is not made because this Association has in former years committed itself to the opinion that the Chinese would be wise to entrust this building of the whole line from Hankow to Canton to a foreign contractor. We may hold to that opinion and yet, realising the uselessness of putting it forward at the present time, accept the position that the people of Kwangtung prefer to build their own railways and wish them accepted. But our interest in the progress of the good work and that it would be a pleasure to the latter to benefit the Colony.

ed. in its construction. When the Hongkong Government lent the money for its redemption the understanding was that the line was to be built; the project was not to be hung up or merely pined with. For some time it looked as if the Chinese were merely playing with it. That was the impression which I received some two years ago when I paid a visit to railhead. I was still under that impression when at last year's annual meeting, after a year's absence in England and speaking with the greater freedom of an ordinary member, I made a remark which was held unduly to disparage the project.

I desire now to make what amends I can by giving equal publicity to an opinion recently expressed by an expert witness, a highly qualified railway engineer, that, judged on the lines which have been adopted by the management, progress may be regarded as not unsatisfactory. (Applause). This does not disprove the contention that the Chinese, by themselves, can not yet successfully undertake serious railway enterprise, because of course they are employing foreign engineers of various nationalities. The tunneling difficulties which lie in wait, somewhere about the twentieth mile, and the heavy bridge work entailed by the crossing of the North River, will test the efficiency of their staff methods in due time, but in the meantime the point I want to make is that, in expert opinion, the work done, as far as it goes—for the 45 miles of track at present laid—some ballasted, some not—some bridges permanent, others temporary—and for 35 miles of embankment reported as being nearly complete beyond the work done does receive guarded commendation. But that is no reason why we should refrain from criticising, on general lines, the directors' policy, if we consider it susceptible of improvement. Hence the comment in the report.

Concerning the remaining subjects with which it deals I have little to add; not because there is little to say, but because there is so much.

The subsidiary coin problem we have always had and shall have as long as the solution indicated in the report is delayed. That solution involves the greater problem presented by the state of China's currency. If things, at their worst, are bound to mend, the state of China's currency may be optimistically regarded. It is in a state of indescribable chaos. With the increasing popularity of the idea of issuing unsecured notes in unlimited quantities all the forces of confusion seem now to be at work. Scores of different sorts of local, dozens of doubtful kinds of dollars, an infinite variety of subsidiary coins, brass cash, copper cash, cash on strings or by the carload; dollar notes, notes representing cash pieces, native orders, chops, and heaven knows what else—all mixed up with the exchange problems that arise between every town and village throughout the Empire, combine to create a gigantic conundrum. Native press telegrams state that the new Tael coin which was to have made all these crookedesses straight has already reached melting point. If it is melting into thin air—vanishing in the glistening vision of a gold standard. This resuscitated dream represents a great idea, to be worked towards gradually, the first step an undoubted Imperial dollar. But even that would leave untouched much of the general welter. Somewhat we,

I do not propose to launch out on the subject of opium. To deal adequately

with that would perhaps require a historical survey, reaching back through misty centuries to the time when Chinese junks traded as far west as the Persian Gulf. I confine myself to raising a point which seems somewhat to have received scant attention. It is this. How can the apologists of China reconcile her claim to be protected from the Indian export with the fact that China herself exports the drug? One would have thought that the first thing for China to have done would have been to desist from the practice she so loudly complains of in others. It may be said that the amount is small, but in a matter of conscience there can be no dimensions. If, as is said, it is iniquitous that the Indian Government should debauch the Chinese in China, it is not equally wrong of the Chinese Government to debauch its subjects in the Straits and in Indo-China, by conniving at the export thither of the home-grown article? May we not reasonably ask as a preliminary that China should practice what she preaches? But in all matters relating to opium the Conference holds the field. The China Association may as well hold the breach. No words will be listened to until the results of the Shanghai symposium are made known.

These are all the subjects upon which the report touches. A final word of explanation is needed concerning the many interesting subjects upon which it does not touch. The number of these is perhaps the most remarkable thing about it. There are no exciting excursions into high Chinese politics. At this distance from the capital we labour under great disadvantages in making them. Even in Peking there is apparently some difficulty in obtaining safe news. And there is manifestly far greater difficulty in forming views which are not liable to be upset. Again occurs the commonplace doubt, prevalent

among the foreigner as to whether any

foreigner has ever yet succeeded in understanding the workings of the Chinese mind.

To this doubt is mainly due the circumstance that the events which three months ago startled the world led to no pronouncements from here.

The death of the late Emperor and of the Empress Dowager—the peaceful transferance of the reins of power—the subsequent fall of Yung and his exit from the Peking stage—all these dramatic incidents no word was said.

If anything required to be said it was clearly the more difficult business of our colleagues in the North to say it. We have kept strictly to our own business down South. Our task has been light because with very few exceptions

such incidents as have arisen to threaten good relations with the Canton authorities, have been successfully dealt with through the ordinary official channels, and comment from us was thus rendered needless. How light our task has been is made manifest by the modest proportions of the report, the adoption of which, together with the seconds, I now formally move. (Loud applause).

Hon. Mr. Pollock addressed a few remarks pertaining to the chairman's address and concluded by seconding the motion which was unanimously carried.

On the motion of Mr. Forbes seconded by Mr. Shelling a number of gentlemen were appointed the Committee for the current year.

SANITARY BOARD.

A NEW MEMBER.

The first meeting of the Sanitary Board since the election took place at the Board's offices last Tuesday afternoon, when Dr. G. H. Fitzwilliams, the newly-appointed member, made his first appearance. Mr. R. O. Hutchinson, Acting Head of the Sanitary Department, delivered a short, valedictory address, in which he said that the last election was more important than usual and took the opportunity of congratulating Mr. Shelton Hooper and Dr. Fitzwilliams on their successful return. He added that he did not expect that any anti-Japanese legislation by California alone would affect the relations of America and Japan.

CHINA PROVIDENT LOAN AND MORTGAGE CO. LTD.

ANNUAL REPORT.

The report for presentation to the shareholders at the twelfth ordinary general meeting to be held on Saturday next is as follows:—

Anexed we have the pleasure to lay before shareholders a statement of accounts made up to 31st December 1908.

The gross earnings for the past year amount to \$10,221.18 and after deducting all expenses, amounting to General Managers, Consulting Committees and Auditors fees, there remains a balance of \$11,362.68 which it is recommended be appropriated as follows, viz:—

To place to reserve fund \$10,000.00

To pay a dividend of 80 cents per share \$100,000.00

To carry forward to the credit of next year's account \$1,407.68

CONSULTING COMMITTEE.

In accordance with the Articles of Association, Messrs. J. S. Van Buren, Chow Hing Kee, Dr. J. W. Noble, H. P. White and U. Pol On retire, but offer themselves for re-election.

AUDITORS.

The accounts have been audited by Messrs. A. O'D. Gourdin and W. H. Potts, who are recommended for re-election.

To cover depreciation on investments (amounting to \$2,100.00) and other contingencies, \$10,000.00 has been withdrawn from the reserve fund which will now stand at \$100,000.00.

SHEWAT TOMEY & CO. General Managers.

Hongkong, 29th January, 1909.

PROFIT AND LOSS.

Consulting Committee's fees \$4,000.00

Auditors' fees 7,525.22

Depreciation on godown furniture for the year 1908 313.15

Writer off to doubtful debts and contingencies account 30,000.00

Balance \$13,407.68

BALANCE SHEET.

Authorised capital—100,000 shares at \$10—\$1,000,000 issued as per last report 125,000 shares at \$10 each \$1,250,000.00

Reserve fund 9,000.00

Sundry creditors 352,301.06

Amount transferred from reserve fund to meet contingencies and depreciation on shares 30,000.00

Balance \$155,446.05

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Anglo-Portuguese School.

FIRST DISTRIBUTION OF PRIZES.
INTERESTING ADDRESSES AT THE CLUB LUSITANO.

On the completion of the twenty-fifth year of its existence, the Victoria Anglo-Portuguese School held its first annual distribution of prizes at the hall of the Club Lusitano, kindly lent for the occasion, last Saturday afternoon. With the assistance of friends the entrance and hall of the Club-house were very tastefully decorated, the national colours of Portugal and England predominating. The hall was crowded with an interested gathering of parents of the children and friends of the school. Among the thoroughly representative assembly we noted the Right Rev. Bishop D. Pozzani, who presided, Mr. E. D. C. Wolfe, Inspector of Schools; Mr. J. J. Leiria, Consul for Portugal and Brazil, and Mrs. Leiria; Dr. Amos P. Wilder, U.S. Consul General; Mr. F. Funatsu, Consul for Japan, and Mrs. Funatsu; Mrs. von Winkler, Mrs. Rozário; Mr. Ho Fook, Mr. J. L. de A. Alves, president of the Club Lusitano, and Miss Alves, members of the General Committee of the Club and their wives, Rev. Fathers P. de Maria, P. Gabardi, Novais, and Watson, R. C. Naval Chaplain, Rev. Brothers Christian and Conclius, St. Joseph's College, Mr. T. K. Dealy, headmaster, Queen's College, Dr. G. H. L. Fitzwilliams, Messrs. F. Gaudet, C. C. Correia, J. M. E. Machado, and Mrs. and the Misses Loureiro.

Before the commencement of proceedings, little Laura Figueiredo presented Mrs. Leiria with an exquisite bouquet of flowers.

The programme opened with the rendering of the march "Star and Stripes" by the excellent band of the Sociedade Philarmónica whose members kindly assisted to enliven the proceedings during the afternoon. At the conclusion of the march,

Mr. J. L. de S. Alves said:—My Lord Bishop, Ladies and Gentlemen, As president of the Club Lusitano it behoves me to welcome you here upon such an auspicious occasion. I have no desire to inflict myself on you with a long address, and will therefore proceed at once to fulfil that part of the agreeable duty allotted to me by calling upon my friend, Consul Leiria, to address this distinguished gathering.

Bishop Pozzani:—Ladies and Gentlemen,—Before, my friend, Consul Leiria, addresses you, I will ask him to permit me to say a few words. I wish to express the great pleasure it has given me to come here and preside at a function so pleasing to us all in every respect. I thank the management of the school for the opportunity they have given me in being able to say how much I am obliged to you, ladies and gentlemen, for the interest you manifest in the efforts which are being directed in the endeavour to impart Christian education to the youth of Hongkong, invited by the headmaster, and assisted by the manager of the school, Very Rev. Father de Maria, I conducted an examination in Christian doctrine at the school. (Applause.) I am glad of this opportunity to state publicly that in the knowledge of the Christian doctrine, I have found the school as efficiently taught as it has been in the subjects prescribed under the Grant-in-aid Code, as to which Mr. Wolfe will be able to speak with better authority than I can. So satisfied am I with the result of the examination that I am offering a little prize for Christian doctrine to-day, which I will ask the headmaster to award to the girl who is best in that subject in the school. With the names of the other prominent speakers before us, I have no desire to detain you any longer as I feel certain all of us are most anxious to listen to what must surely be very interesting addresses. (Applause.)

Consul Leiria said:—My Lord Bishop, Ladies and Gentlemen, I appear before you this afternoon in an entirely novel rôle; for it is not often that a Consular official combines with his duties those of a principal of a school as I have been asked to act for the nonce to-day. The modern conception of the occupant of a Consular incumbency, however, is not only that of the representative of his country in that to which he is accredited, but also that of a commercial agent, an intelligence, and, in short, that of a Jack-of-all-trades, under which latter denomination that also, I suppose, is it believed, a Consul possesses the omniscience of the gods, but like most people with whom Nature has been bountiful in her disposition of the gift of vanity. Consuls, I imagine, with the sad deficiency of a sense of modesty, arrogate to themselves a certain prominence in public functions to which they may not justly have a claim. My want of modesty, I suppose, is responsible for the eagerness with which I seized upon the occasion to appear in my present rôle, when I was approached to present to you the first public annual report of the Victoria Anglo-Portuguese School. That report, which furnishes interesting reading from an educational point of view, is submitted by the headmistress of the school, Mrs. D. A. Cordeiro. With your permission I have pleasure in reading it.

HEADMISTRESS'S REPORT.

Started in 1884 by the late Mr. Claudio J. da Silva, with Mrs. Silva as assistant, the Victoria Anglo-Portuguese School enrolled three names on the inaugural day (twenty-five years ago). After carrying on the school, which was designed primarily for children of Portuguese parentage, for a few years, Mrs. Silva, wife of the founder, died. Whereupon Mr. Silva left the Colony and the school passed under new management in 1885 with 30 pupils on the roll. By this time application had been made for the school to be recognised as one of the Grant schools under Government supervision and has continued to remain so since then. In 1902, Miss C. M. Noronha, who was at the time principal assistant of the school, succeeded as headmistress who, in turn, handed it over to her sister, Mrs. D. A. Cordeiro, who remains in that capacity assisted by Miss C. M. Lopes as teacher of the infant school. From 27 pupils in 1902 the enrolment gradually increased until it reached 78 in 1908 and stands at 85, the maximum number which the available floor space of the school is capable of accommodating. Later applications for admission have had reluctantly to be refused. The number of school days in 1908 was 224, and the average attendance 61.71. The subjects taught are those prescribed by the Government Grant-in-Aid Code, the classes range from the first to the 5th standard inclusive. English is the medium of instruction. In the infant school, however, the pupils attending which enter with knowledge of no other language except Portuguese, the latter is used as the medium until a more advanced course is reached. In 1908, 72 pupils were presented for the Inspector of Schools' annual examination and the school was again returned as "thoroughly efficient". The Inspector's report is attached. It is satisfactory that, in the school's highest standard, viz., Class V, 95% of marks was obtained in a subject of commercial value as arithmetic. That class also was reported "very good" in colloquial English. While regretting the notice which has formed the subject of comment by the Inspector, it has to be

noted that the very limited accommodation militates against the possibility of a better exercise of discipline so essential and eminently desirable in every school organisation. Having regard, however, to the smallness of the fees charged to the scholars, the cost of house rent in a suitable location for the school is comparatively prohibitive to the management without having to resort to higher school fees, which in the majority of cases will be beyond the means of parents to pay. Another much felt want is the absence of a small yard for playground for the children. A half-team was presented by this school for the Hygiene School Competition held by Government in December, 1908. This school was bracketed first in the aggregate percentage of marks, but owing to the absence of the full complement of competitors the school was not awarded the Shield. Maria Remedios' paper was awarded 75.7 per cent of marks; it was listed first by the examiner, Dr. William Pearce, in the half team presented by the school. Acknowledgments are due from the management and staff of the school to the following donors to the Prize Fund:—Christian Rev. Bishop D. Pozzani, who presided, Mr. E. D. C. Wolfe, Inspector of Schools; Mr. J. J. Leiria, Consul for Portugal and Brazil, and Mrs. Leiria; Dr. Amos P. Wilder, U.S. Consul General; Mr. F. Funatsu, Consul for Japan, and Mrs. Funatsu; Mrs. von Winkler, Mrs. Rozário; Mr. Ho Fook, Mr. J. L. de A. Alves, president of the Club Lusitano, and Miss Alves, members of the General Committee of the Club and their wives, Rev. Fathers P. de Maria, P. Gabardi, Novais, and Watson, R. C. Naval Chaplain, Rev. Brothers Christian and Conclius, St. Joseph's College, Mr. T. K. Dealy, headmaster, Queen's College, Dr. G. H. L. Fitzwilliams, Messrs. F. Gaudet, C. C. Correia, J. M. E. Machado, and Mrs. and the Misses Loureiro.

INSPECTOR OF SCHOOLS' REPORT.

The Inspector of Schools' report is as follows:—

Staff—Mrs. Cordeiro and one assistant.

Discipline and organisation.—Discipline good on the whole, but the noise in the lower classes referred to last year has not been put a stop to yet.

Organization.—Very good.

Sanitation.—Satisfactory. The premises are rather small for the number of pupils 72 in all.

Apparatus.—Very satisfactory.

Floor space.—Sufficient for 86 pupils.

English.—Reading.—Good in the lower and very good in the upper classes. In some of the lower forms the pupils read too fast and clip their words.

Composition.—Good.—Very good in Class V. More attention should be paid to punctuation. In Class V some of the letters begin and end very abruptly.

Colloquial.—Very fair in I and II, good in III and IV, very good in Class V where the general intelligence was also of a high order.

Grammar.—Good throughout.

Geography.—Good, except Hongkong in Class II, Class III very good.

Arithmetic.—Very good throughout the whole school. Class V obtained 96% of marks.

History.—Class IV good, Class V very good.

Infant school.—Satisfactory.

Needlework.—Good.

Grant.—I recommend the full grant of 35/- to the school, it being "thoroughly efficient".

HISTORY OF THE SCHOOL.

Continuing, Consul Leiria said:—Ladies and Gentlemen, as you have heard, the two reports—that of the headmistress and of the Inspector of Schools—present a very satisfactory record of another year of useful work and continued progress amongst the little children attending the Anglo-Portuguese School. It is a happy coincidence that, on the 25th year of its existence, the year of its Silver Jubilee, the school should make (if the term is not inapplicable) its public debut in such an auspicious manner. I allude, firstly, to the fact that for two years in succession the Inspector of Schools, who, I am glad to see, has done the school in particular, and the community in general, the honour of associating this function with his presence this afternoon, has returned the Victoria Anglo-Portuguese School as "thoroughly efficient". Secondly, that the school has maintained to the distinction of being bracketed first in the Hygiene School Competition instituted by a former Governor of Hongkong; that in that competition, conducted by an independent officer of Government, Miss Maria Remedios headed the list in her team with 75.7 per cent of marks, being followed by Miss Adelaide Remedios and Miss Lilia Rodrigues with 50 and 46 marks, respectively, out of a maximum of 70. Special prizes have been received for presentation to these young ladies to-day. And, lastly, I congratulate the school upon the interest which is evidenced in the excellent work it is performing by the large and distinguished gathering of parents and friends of the pupils whom I see gathered here to-day in a desire to further the laudable cause of the promotion of education amongst the young. I have just made allusion to the celebration of the School's Silver Jubilee. That takes me to a brief retrospect of the history of this school. The occasion is not inopportune for a short retrospective sketch of the little institution founded by a Portuguese graduate, with its first scholars—three Portuguese children; continued after his death by a Portuguese lady and since conducted and managed by another Portuguese lady with an assistant. The late Mr. Claudio J. da Silva, who graduated in the Portuguese University of Coimbra, conceived the idea in 1884 of starting a school wherein the Portuguese and English languages should be taught the children simultaneously. He commenced with three pupils, the roll attaining the maximum number at sixty. The school's programme never aimed at higher instruction than what may be described as that obtaining in a English grammar school. Like most institutions, the school has had its vicissitudes, and upon the departure of Mr. Silva from the Colony in 1886 the attendance fell off to 30, the school having then been taken under the wings, so to speak, of the paternal care of the Colonial Government and becoming eligible for the annual grants-in-aid. In 1902 it passed under the present administration and, with the fostering assistance of the grants, it entered upon a new lease of life until last year when it registered the highest number of pupils, viz., 85, with an average attendance of 61.71. This is the highest number admissible with the present limited accommodation. Applicants, I am informed, have had to be refused. One regrettable feature connected with the original object and scope of the school is the dropping out of the Portuguese language from the curriculum. It is just possible the "grant" system is responsible for the apparent indifference to the Portuguese mother tongue, but its importance is such, as one of the branches of the Latin languages, that it cannot afford to be ignored, if only as a very material help to the acquisition of the English language whose commercial value is so universally recognised. It has been urged on behalf of the management of the school that it has small pretensions and does not aim at higher things than the equipping of the young children with that elementary knowledge of the English language, the Four Rules, and the rudiments of the other subjects of instruction prescribed by the Government Code, so as to qualify them for immediate admission into the schools with a higher programme. That this aim has been fully attained, it is matter of congratulation that some of its past pupils have succeeded admirably in the institutions

of which this formed and continues to act as a sort of feeder. Moreover, when the Victoria Anglo-Portuguese School can take its rank with the best schools of the Colony in a public examination like the Hygiene competition initiated and conducted by the Government of the Colony, I think the time has arrived when the management may, with confidence, consider the enlargement of the scope of the school. During this month we have heard a great deal about the Governor's excellent scheme of a University of Hongkong. (Hear, hear.) When that project shall have materialised, we hope to see that undergirded from the Victoria Anglo-Portuguese School will matriculate in the future Hongkong University, with which Sir Frederick's name will ever be gratefully identified by the younger generation of the Colony. My allusion to the Officials brings to mind the obligation which I asked to express to Mr. Wolfe in honouring the first public distribution of prizes of the Victoria Anglo-Portuguese School with his presence. (Applause.) The management did not feel inclined to approach His Excellency the Governor to present the prizes, having regard to the fact that Sir Frederick is a man of few moments to spare from the exigencies of his official duties, and also to the regrettable illness of Lady Lurgard. In the absence of the Governor, the Inspector of Schools is appropriately the most fitting representative. For one so thoroughly sympathetic with the educational movement of the Colony, as our present Inspector of Schools has shown himself to be, there is a likelihood of forgetting their rights. A boy is a dynamo in energy; we may not ask him to suppress it but rather provide channels for its expression. In other words, to expect a wriggling boy to keep silent and quietless is a task which no teacher can perform. He should be allowed for a season to thresh about as much as he pleases. To expect a young lad to keep immaculately clean and his clothes likewise is to trample on his rights. It is surprising how reasonable young children are; as a rule, if parents will exert the time and patience, the child can be made to see the path of right and propriety; if we are asking too much, the master should not be pressed. Much punishment of children is unnecessary,—certainly impatient, angry treatment does more harm than good. This is merely a tiny trait of the irate parent; reason and an affectionate attitude require time on the part of parent, but the child responds, as a rule. The habit of obedience should be set up in the very early years; but the child should be asked to obey only in important matters. He should be shown the reason why obedience is expected and if the parent is right, the master should be settled then and there. I do not believe in obedience for obedience sake; in other words, because the parent wants the thing done is not sufficient for a child; it must present itself to him as a reasonable thing to be done. The minds of young children are a mystic delicate haze of fancies and logical maturity should step within this realm with great caution. Imagination is the first faculty at work and it weaves marvellous fabrics of delicate texture. When the child is playing with his train of tin cars, the act is as graphic and vital to him as employment of the father down town. For the father to gather the train loaded with dreams into a corner with his foot is as vaud to the child as— as some giant—interrupting—the occupation of the day, took the father by the neck at 6 o'clock and dragged him to his home. One who understands and loves child nature, as a little trouble get Johnny to bed with out shock and tears. Take a moment to stall the locomotive with the remark that the day's work is done and gather up the freight cars noting that the midnight storm must not impair imaginary ships and jewels. So too with the little girl and her dolls; no evening party, no princely gathering is so real as the function going forward in her brain in which the dolls are transmuted to Regal blood and the tea plates shade into gold. It is not only impolite to interrupt the child's play, but the rough invasion of the child nature to interrupt her fancies save to delicately direct them to the parental purpose. A criminal judge, in Denver, Colorado, has won great note by his sympathetic skill in dealing with the boy brought to his court. He is known as their friend, and has saved many to useful lives. He recognises that a young boy dreams dreams, inexperienced in life, with few beacon lights except his own, imagining, his lies and thefts are some-time without meaning. I met a listless child the other day with a piece of string in her hand. I asked her if she were about to bind some lion, to securely his paws and mouth that he may do no harm. At once the child was aglow, her whole face showed the awakening fancies. Her "Yes" was a real to her as if she had a manager to her hands. The only real child knows are those in his brain. Young boys have been known to form robber bands, to raise money to relieve the oppressed. A mystic world, the fancy of a young child, and older ones may well walk there with reverence and not too much confidence. Kindness and affection are the only true avenues of approach. (Loud Applause.)

Mr. Wolfe, who, on appearing on the stage, was received with loud applause, said he must thank all present, H.M.F.M.'s Consul in particular, for the very kind words which he had said about him in connection with his ascription to that function. Consul Leiria had referred to the history of the school the first annual public prize distribution of which was instituted by a former Governor of Hongkong, and Mrs. Leiria will feel grateful to Mr. Wolfe if Miss Maria Remedios will step forward and receive at the hands of the Governor's representative the prize offered as a reward of her merit. I feel sure a few remarks from Wolfe upon the present occasion will be listened to with much pleasure by one and all here present. (Applause.)

HYGIENE PRIZES.

Miss Maria Remedios, 1st, Prize presented by Madame Leiria.

Adelaide Remedios, 2nd, Prize presented by Mr. G. C. Correia.

Lilia Rodrigues, 3rd, Prize presented by Mr. J. M. E. Machado.

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China Association.

ANNUAL MEETING.

A YEAR'S WORK.

The annual general meeting of the Hongkong Branch of the China Association was held in the City Hall, last Tuesday afternoon. Mr. Murray Stewart, chairman of the committee, presided, and there were also present—Mr. H. E. Tomkins, Mr. O. H. Ross, Mr. J. W. G. Bonnar, Mr. W. G. Humphreys, Mr. E. G. Barrett, Mr. H. R. B. Hancock (Committee), Mr. A. S. D. Coulsland (hon. secretary), Hon. Mr. W. J. Gleeson, Hon. Mr. H. E. Pollock, K.C. Messrs. E. Shelling, J. R. M. Smith, J. C. Peter, C. S. Gubbay, J. Armstrong, W. S. Bailey, D. K. Moss, D. Macdonald, G. Morton Smith, J. D. Auld, E. F. Mackay, A. Forbes, J. Cochran, and E. A. G. May.

The Chairman said—The notice calling this meeting and the annual report having been together in your hands for some days I presume that the formality of reading them may be dispensed with, and accordingly I propose to proceed at once with our first business—the consideration of the report. In moving its adoption, I should perhaps explain its form, its form differs from that of most of those which have preceded it. Most of these have contained an appendix which has appeared much of the year's correspondence. This time no letters have been printed in full. The reason for this is twofold.

For one thing the proportion of correspondence requiring to be treated as confidential was last year larger than usual. This is not in any degree due to a desire on the part of your committee to shroud their doings in mystery. Confidential treatment of correspondence has in all cases been imposed upon us; we merely keep faith in thus dealing with it. I mention this because I have seen it suggested that your Committee is absurdly enamored of secret methods. The notion is a mistaken one. Our correspondence is at all times open to the inspection of members, but all of it is not necessarily therefore suitable for publication. As regards correspondence not requiring to be treated confidentially, the reason why it does not appear is simply that it seemed on re-consideration to be insufficiently interesting for reproduction in detail. As I am mainly responsible for this I feel free to state the fact. By way of doing penance I volunteered to wade through these two formidable bundles of stale stuff which you see on the table, picking out the least uninteresting passages, and stringing them together in a brief relation of the year's work, thus enabling you rapidly to scan it, and to see at a glance what we have been doing. My object was to save your patience. Some of the patience thus saved will I hope be available for supplementary reference to the topics touched upon.

The first is for the moment threadbare. We sympathise with the desire of the British community of Tientsin to maintain a British Post Office. We rest in hope. There is nothing else to be done in the meantime. The same remark applies to the lottery ticket question, while the adage "least said soonest mended" precisely meets the present case of the boycott. Concerning the problem of the protection of Trade Marks its vital importance to the prospects of British commerce in the Far East need not be enlarged upon. Diplomatic conventions can do something towards solving it; but its complete solution depends more upon the advent of a worldwide spirit of fair play. For that we still trust to you.

Railway matters call for more detailed comment. The day when it will be possible to take a ticket from Kowloon to Calais seems still provokingly remote. Of giant strides towards the realisation of this dream I wish we could hear more. As a beginning I wish we could even see good reason to believe that it will soon be possible to take a ticket from Kowloon to Canton. I wish there were good grounds for hoping that the Chinese section of the line thither will be completed as soon as the British section. I wish we could ascertain that the acquisition of the requisite land was being pushed forward vigorously. Unfortunately we know that it is not. For some reason there is delay. Money for the purpose has been handed over in various instalments to the official responsible, but still the business hangs fire. The difficulties of acquiring land for the Yueh Han Railway have been overcome with comparative ease. What is it that makes the difficulties on the Chinese section of the Kowloon line so much more formidable? No wonder if in this Colony we ask the question with some impatience.

As regards the reference in the report to the work of construction on the Kwangtung section of the Canton-Hankow railway a word of explanation is necessary. The rapid progress recently made was noted with satisfaction. The particulars are public property. Forty-four miles of track are open to traffic. Two trains run daily over the whole distance. Each way the journey takes three hours. This does not exactly indicate the top speed of the train. In the 44 miles are 12 stoppages. Additional trains run regularly to a half-way station some 20 odd miles out from Canton. Already the stimulating effect is apparent. It is not only that villagers throng the train. That fact is patent to any casual observer. A fact not so readily realised is that there is also the beginning of a local freight traffic—cattle and vegetables coming into Canton from the country—fish going out to inland villages. As a local line the success of the undertaking is already assured. Precisely because of that there is danger. There is danger lest the management should see no further than that. The directors are drawn chiefly from the local gentry and merchants. It is probable that few of them have travelled widely. It is possible that some of them have never travelled at all. It is therefore open to doubt whether they realise to the full the possibilities opening out of the little station yard at Woosha. Failure to realise those possibilities now will result in curtailing them hereafter. If the railway is ever to be operated as part of a great trunk line and a large local traffic is to run simultaneously, a double track in the immediate vicinity of Canton will become a necessity, and there will be pressing need for more room at the terminus. It will be well for the future of the enterprise if these things are realised and acted upon promptly. The price of both land and labour will rise as the influence of increased facilities of communication makes itself felt. The directors should look ahead. They have the history of the short-sightedness of any number of other pioneer directors, similarly situated in other countries, to guide them. The criticism thus elaborated is made in no carping spirit. It is not made because this Association has in former years committed itself to the opinion that the Chinese would be wise to entrust the building of the whole line from Hankow to Canton to a foreign contractor. We may hold to that opinion and yet, realising the unclassess of getting it forward at the present time, accept the position that the people of Kwangtung prefer to build their own railways and wish them success. But our interest in the progress of the line justifies criticism of the methods employed.

ed in its construction. When the Hongkong Government lent the money for its redemption the understanding was that the line was to be built; the project was not to be hung up or merely played with. For some time it looked as if the Chinese were merely playing with it. That was the impression which I received some two years ago when I paid a visit to railhead. I was still under that impression when at last year's annual meeting, after a year's absence in England and speaking with the greater freedom of an ordinary member, I made a remark which was held unduly to disparage the progress made.

I desire now to make what amends I can by giving equal publicity to an opinion recently expressed by an expert witness, a highly qualified railway engineer, that, judged on the lines which have been adopted by the management, progress may be regarded as not unsatisfactory. (Applause). This does not disprove the contention that the Chinese, by themselves, cannot yet successfully undertake serious railway enterprise, because of course they are employing foreign engineers of various nationalities. The tunneling difficulties which lie in wait, somewhere about the seventeenth mile, and the heavy bridge work entailed by the crossing of the North River, will test the efficiency of their staff methods in due time, but in the meantime the point I want to make is that, in expert opinion, the work done, as far as it goes—for the 45 miles of track at present laid—some ballasted, some not—some bridges permanent, others temporary—and for 35 miles of embankment reported as being nearly complete beyond the work does not receive guarded commendation. But that is no reason why we should refrain from criticising, on general lines, the directors' policy, if we consider it susceptible of improvement. Hence the comment in the report.

Concerning the remaining subjects with which it deals I have little to add; not because there is little to say, but because there is so much. The subsidiary coin problem we have always had and shall have as long as the solution indicated in the report is delayed. That solution involves the greater problem presented by the state of China's currency. If things, at their worst, are bound to mend, the state of China's currency may be optimistically regarded. It is in a state of indescribable chaos. With the increasing popularity of the idea of issuing unsecured notes in unlimited quantities all the forces of confusion seem now to be at work. Stories of different sorts of tales, dozen of doubtful kinds of dollars, an infinite variety of subsidiary coins, brass cash, copper cash, cash on strings or by the cartload, dollar notes, notes representing sub coin, myriads of notes representing cash pieces, natives' orders, chops, and heaven knows what else—all mixed up with the exchange problems that arise between every town and village throughout the Empire, combine to create a gigantic conundrum. Native press telegrams state that the new Tael coin which was to have made all these crookednesses straight has already reached melting point. It is melting into thin air—vanishing in the glinting vision of a gold standard. This resuscitated dream represents a great idea to be worked towards gradually, the first step an undoubted Imperial dollar. But even that would leave untouched much of the general welter. Somewhat.

I do not propose to launch out on the subject of opium. To do, adequately with that would perhaps require a historical survey stretching back through misty centuries to the time when Chinese junks traded as far west as the Persian Gulf. I continue myself to raising a point which seems somehow to have received scant attention: It is this. How can the apologists of China reconcile their claim to be protected from the Indian export with the fact that China herself exports the drug? One would have thought that the first thing for China to have done would have been to desist from the practice she so loudly complains of in others. It may be said that the amount is small, but in a matter of conscience there can be no dimensions. If, as is said, it is iniquitous that the Indian Government should debase the Chinese in China, it is not equally wrong of the Chinese Government to debase its subjects. Again.

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Loans on provident-sytem 551,947.00 Loans on mortgages, shares, &c. 674,955.31 Balance 51,194,482.40

Investment of reserve fund 800 shares Green Island Cement Co. Ltd. at \$10 88,000.00 250 China Light and Power Co. Ltd. Debentures at \$100 25,000.00 Balance 113,000.00

Property at West Point (Po-On-Godowns and other property) 585,250.00 Since expended 1,755.86 Balance 585,035.85

Less on mortgage 450,000.00 405,035.86

4,500 shares China Light and Power Co. Ltd. at 55.00 22,500.00

Godown furniture 2,313.15 Less depreciation 313.15 2,000.00

Proportion of premium on unexpired policies 1,141.59

Sundry debtors 60,493.74

Cash in hand 56,455.15

Cash at godown 200.00

6,255.15

\$1,805,708.74

THE COLONIAL CEMETERY.

REPLIES TO MR. SHELTON HOOVER'S QUESTIONS.

At the meeting of the Sanitary Board last Tuesday afternoon, Mr. A. Shelton Hoover, pursuant to notice, asked—

(1) Is it a fact that permission of any officer of the Sanitary Department or other Government has been granted for the exhumation of any corpse in any Chinese Cemetery and for its re-interment in the Colonial Cemetery, Happy Valley, commonly known as the Protestant Cemetery, since the passing of the Public Health and Buildings Amendment Ordinance 1907?

(2) If so, what is the number of such cases, and dates of each?

(3) Who was the officer who granted the permits and by what authority did he do so?

(4) Has any portion of the Colonial Cemetery been reserved for such re-interments referred to in question No. 1?

The following were the replies—

1. Yes.

2. One. The permit was issued on December 19th, 1908.

3. The form of permit was issued by the Registrar-General, the M.O.H., having no sanitary objections. The issuing of this permit was a continuation of the practice that obtained under the old bye-laws. Printed copies of the new bye-laws were not circulated till December 19th.

4. No.

THE JAPAN BOYCOTT.

COUNT KOMURA'S STATEMENT.

Tokio, January 26.

Court Komura, Minister of Foreign Affairs, said, at a meeting of the Committee of the House of Representatives, that the boycott of Japanese goods in South China was practically ended.

He added that he did not expect that any anti-Japanese legislation by California alone would affect the relations of America and Japan.

—N. C. D. A. 701.

CHINA PROVIDENT LOAN AND MORTGAGE CO. LTD.

ANNUAL REPORT.

The report for presentation to the shareholders at the twelfth ordinary general meeting to be held on Saturday next is as follows—

Anxious we have the pleasure to lay before shareholders a statement of accounts made up to 31st December 1908.

The gross earnings for the past year amount to \$109,213.18 and after deducting all expenses, remuneration to General Managers, Consulting Committee's and Auditors fees, there remains a balance of \$113,407.68 which it is recommended be appropriated as follows, viz—

To place to reserve fund \$30,000.00

To pay a dividend of 80 cents per

share \$80,000.00

To carry forward to the credit of next year's account \$5,407.68

CONSULTING COMMITTEE.

In accordance with the Articles of Association, Messrs. J. S. Van Buren, Chow Hing Kee, Dr. J. W. Noble, H. P. White and U. P. Polk O'Brien, but other themselves for re-election.

AUDITORS.

The accounts have been audited by Messrs. A. O'D. Gourdin and W. H. Potts, who are recommended for re-election.

To cover depreciation on investments (amounting to \$2,150.00) and other contingencies, \$30,000.00 has been withdrawn from the reserve fund which will now stand at \$100,000.00.

SHEWAN TONES & CO. LTD.

Hongkong, 29th January, 1909.

PROFIT AND LOSS.

Consulting committee's fees \$4,000.00 Dr. Noble's fees 200.00 Charges 7,152.22 Depreciation on godown furniture for the year 1908 313.15 Written off to doubtful debts and contingencies account 30,000.00 Balance 113,407.68

\$155,446.05

Balance carried forward from last year \$3,593.29

Interest received, storages, rents, &c. 178,592.18

Less interest paid, commission, &c. 68,170.42

Transfer fees 11.00

Investment income account 11,620.00

Amount transferred from reserve fund to meet contingencies and depreciation on shares 30,000.00

\$155,446.05

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BALANCE SHEET.

Canton River Holocaust.

BURNING OF THE FLOWER-BOATS.

HUNDREDS BURNT, AND DROWNED.

[From Our Own Correspondent.]

Canton, 1st February.

Shortly after 10 o'clock on the evening of the 20th ultimo great excitement prevailed among the boat population in Canton harbour at Tashan-tau, a pleasure resort, near the Tunk Kwan theatre, on the opposite side of the Canton Government Cement Works, over an outbreak of fire in a flower-boat named "Tao Kee" through the careless use of kerosene oil.

At the outbreak of the fire there was a stiff north wind blowing. In a short space of time, the boat on which the fire originated was completely burnt to the water's edge; and in a few minutes the flames spread over to other boats in the vicinity, permitting of no time to neighbouring crafts to make good their escape, because of the difficulty of moving these cumbersome vessels and, moreover, they were lying along an unbroken line made fast by iron chains.

This being the time immediately after the Chinese New Year, there were large numbers of people visiting this quarter to spend their leisure hours.

The flower-boats, moored in the way described, lent themselves to an extensive conflagration if any one of them caught fire. So that when the "Tao Kee" took fire, all the others were doomed to the same fate. As the boat in which the fire originated was lying close to the bind, the people in the other boats beyond her, out in the harbour, had no means of reaching the shore. Seeing their imminent peril and rather than risking being burnt alive they preferred to take to the water with the hope of being rescued or float to where they might reach a place of safety.

On the alarm being given some crafts in the vicinity managed to raise their anchors, but, unfortunately, when the crew exerted their utmost to row away as quickly as they could, they found the tide unfavourable and too strong to contend against, and so were unable to move. They were accordingly carried back among the burning crafts and ultimately were themselves burnt. The heat of the flames was so intense that it was impossible for any rescuing vessel or launches to get near to render assistance to helpless victims whose lives were being sacrificed to the merciless devouring flames. As soon as the boats were ablaze, the people on board hurriedly jumped into the water in large numbers. Roughly it is estimated that over a thousand took themselves to the river, and only about three or four hundred of them were picked up by launches or sampans. Of the total number of casualties, about ninety per cent were drowned, and only those who could not leave where they were, on account of the smoke, became victims of the holocaust.

Admiral Li Chun happened to be in the city on the evening. On learning of the accident, H. E. hastened to the scene, and directed his men in rendering assistance on board the gunboat *Lung Sung*. Admiral Li succeeded in rescuing over a hundred persons. Members of the different charitable institutions and the Red Cross Society and others also lost no time in proceeding to the scene to render assistance.

It is learnt that some twenty flower-boats, five or six floating restaurants, a few cargo boats, and sampans to the number of some forty in all were completely burnt.

Early yesterday morning, launches and native dredging boats and sampans were engaged in scavenging duties and rewards of \$1 each were offered by the officials and the institutions for the recovery of dead bodies. Up to 4 p.m. yesterday afternoon nearly four hundred corpses were picked up and photographed. It is believed that a few hundred more remain to be recovered.

The corpses that were recovered were all placed in the vicinity of the water police station near the harbour limit, at the eastern section, for identification. The collection presented a gruesome sight. The few hundred corpses lay exposed awaiting to be claimed by their relatives.

Work is still being carried on by the charitable organisations in recovering dead bodies to-day. It is said that some of them must have floated far down the river by the strong current. Among the casualties one was Taotaol Li Yick Che, who was deputed to Canton from Kwangsi to receive a consignment of arms and ammunition for the use of the Imperial troops; another was Weiyan Chai Kai Tsang, belonging to the Shan Hou Chu department; a third was Taotaol Yik belonging to a Government department; and several officials and some of officials, and some twenty bankers of the Ho Po street.

PROGRESSIVE SAIGON.

COMMERCIAL ENTERPRISE OF FRENCH COLONISTS.

FUTURE QUEEN OF THE EAST.

A Tonkin paper calls attention to the increasing importance of Saigon, and its extraordinary commercial development, as a striking example of French colonising enterprise. Every year, that port goes ahead in a remarkable manner, the population increases rapidly and builders never find business slack.

The tonnage frequenting the port rose from 83,420 tons in 1902 to 1,065,515 tons in 1907. The volume of trade in imports and exports together shot up, from a value of over 259 millions of francs in 1902 to nearly 392 millions in 1907.

MORE CHARMING THAN SINGAPORE.

A Paris newspaper of some note calls Saigon the Paris of the Far East, and says that French tourists arriving there after seeing Port Said, Colombo, and Singapore, feel joyful and proud that Saigon is as much more charming and pleasant to the eye, which feeling is shared alike by foreigners also.

Saigon, with its gardens, broad thoroughfares, and fine houses, can indeed lay claim to be a handsome city. Six thousand Europeans are included in a population totalling over 340,000.

The city is plentifully supplied with jungs, in the shape of large open stretches of land reserved for the purpose, which spread over 760 hectares (a hectare is equal to 2.47 acres). Some of the thoroughfares are 60 metres (a metre is equal to 32 feet) nearly broad, and most of the streets are 15 metres broad.

AN ADJECTIVE CITY.

The City of Cholon which lies nearly three miles from Saigon, takes up less space and numbers 200,000 inhabitants, mostly Chinese, who live together in narrow and winding streets.

A wide road planted with trees is now under construction to connect Saigon with Cholon. When it is finished, the two will form one city with, say, half a million of inhabitants, and with a just claim to be styled the Queen of the East.

Others limit the area of Saigon to the city property, so called, and set the population within the bounds so narrowed as 50,000 Europeans and 3,000 natives in 1907; while these narrow limits 397 new houses were built in 1907.

—

After the National Anthem had been sung.

DISTURBANCE AT QUARRY BAY.

CELESTIAL ANTIPATHIES.

LAUNCH OF THE "KITANO MARU."

DISASTER NARROWLY AVOIDED.

Now that the Chinese New Year has passed, with the consequent cooling of that ardour for armed robbery which is always synonymous with the lower class Chinese community at that time of the year, the Police are being treated to other forms of law-breaking which invariably crop up on the part of irresponsible ne'er-do-wells of the coolie class. The bitter estrangement between different classes of Chinese, especially those from the country, is well known, and an interesting case which endorses the above statement came up before Mr. J. H. Kemp, First Police Magistrate, at the Police Court this morning. The occurrence which culminated in the appearance of seven Chinese at the Magistrate this morning took place on Saturday evening, the scene of their activities being Messrs. Butterfield and Swire's extensive Sugar Works at Taikoo. It appears that as a number of Chinese were leaving the premises after the day's work and previous to proceeding to their homes, they met with unfortunate results to all parties concerned, another batch of compatriots belonging to a distinctly separate class.

As the two factors parties were not particularly anxious to make acquaintances, they promptly decided to show their respective superiority by force of strength, and before one could say "Jack Robinson," all sorts of missiles began flying about the place. The infuriated mob indiscriminately hurled stones at the peaceful villagers, and in doing so, damaged the property of their employers to the extent of some \$13. The impromptu mêlée was at its thickest and ran high when a number of Indian policemen, observing that things were getting serious, arrived on the scene, and stopped further acivities on the part of the energetic coolies by arresting all those who were immediately concerned in the disturbance.

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The second charge (that of obstruction of the road) was heard.

Mr. J. H. Scott, manager of the Tramway Company, gave evidence, and after lengthy explanations were listened to, a fine of \$1 was imposed.

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Mr. J. H. Scott, manager of the Tramway Company, gave evidence, and after lengthy explanations were listened to, a fine of \$1 was imposed.

The charge was dismissed; as His Worship thought the complainant had no right to stop the car. The starting of the car, which would otherwise have been an assault, was in this case no assault at all.

The second charge (that of obstruction of the road) was heard.

Mr. J. H. Scott

ALLANA'S BANKRUPTCY.

CHIEF JUSTICE'S DECISION.

4th inst.

The Chief Justice delivered this morning a lengthy and somewhat interesting judgment in connection with the affairs of Mr. S. E. Allana, formerly doing business as a draper in D'Agulha Street. It may be remembered that on the 4th of December last, Mr. J. Scott Harston appeared in support of a petition for the consolidation of two Receiving Orders. Mr. Hastings (for the debtor) objected to this, as a Receiving Order had already been filed against his client and submitted that the Court had no power to consolidate the two Receiving Orders. A petition was presented by the debtor against himself and another was presented by the petitioning creditor. It was eventually decided to consolidate the orders.

This morning, the Chief Justice held that the Judge had jurisdiction to entertain the petition. He said: "A motion has been made in this case which is practically to set aside an assignment made by the bankrupt Allana of his business to Maricain, for certain reasons which are set out in the notice of motion. I say practically to set aside because I am not quite sure that the motion may not require some amendment but a preliminary objection was taken by Mr. Hastings on behalf of the purchaser of the business, that this Court sitting in bankruptcy has no jurisdiction to entertain such a motion, and this question was argued on the basis that the motion was as I have described it. The object stated shortly is this: that this is a question which concerns a stranger to the bankruptcy; that the Court of Bankruptcy at home has jurisdiction to decide such a question only in virtue of section 102 of the Bankruptcy Act of 1883; that that section is not been introduced into the Colonial Ordinance No. 7 of 1897, which is otherwise based on the English Act, and that therefore this Court being the bankruptcy side of the Supreme Court, has no jurisdiction. The problem thus raised is one which I have had the greatest difficulty in solving. Section 102 of the Home Act gives certain power to the Bankruptcy Court, which is to decide all questions of priorities, and all other questions of law and fact which may arise in any case of bankruptcy, of which it may deem it necessary or expedient to decide for the purpose of doing complete justice or making a complete distribution of property. This section has been omitted from the Hongkong Ordinance for reasons which are not apparent, and I do not think I have the right to inquire *ab initio* as from the explanatory report made by the Attorney-General of the time what the reasons were which induced him to omit it. But I must seek for the reasons as best I may. He cannot have thought it superfluous, because no Law Officer in a Colony would take upon himself the great responsibility of so deciding with regard to an important section of such a piece of legislation. But he may have thought it unnecessary in this Colony having special regard to the constitution of the Supreme Court of the Colony and this is the contention advanced by Mr. Harston in support of the motion. Now it has been assumed throughout the argument that the object of section 102 which was section 72 of the Act of 1883 is the only section which confers jurisdiction on the Court of Bankruptcy against strangers. This is certainly not said in so many words, but it does seem as if there is a consensus of opinion that this is its object, that is, to give the Bankruptcy Court jurisdiction to decide questions affecting strangers to the bankruptcy which would otherwise be decided by the other Court. Now whatever may be said as to the personal jurisdiction of the judges in England the different jurisdictions of the Supreme Court are well defined, but here everything is vested in the Chief Justice. The Prince Judge has a coordinate jurisdiction, but for all practical purposes the Chief Justice is the Justice at Common Law in equity and in bankruptcy, and the Attorney-General of the time may have said "what is the use of saying that the Chief Justice may do one day in bankruptcy what he may do the next day in the same court, with the same staff, in Original jurisdiction?" I do not say that the reasoning is satisfactory and had I been drafting the Ordinance I should not have omitted this section because it is desirable to preserve in the Colonial Courts the form as far as possible of the Courts at Home. But in order to adopt this reasoning I should have to satisfy myself that there is no provision which preserves here the lines of demarcation of the several jurisdictions of the English Courts. Mr. Harston's most ingenious argument in brief is this—By section 4 of the Repeal Ordinance No. 3 of 1897, which dealt with the constitution of the Supreme Court, it is provided that it shall not be necessary to bring any proceeding on the equity side of the Court for the purpose of bringing to another Court any equitable claim, defence or question in respect of or collateral or arising out of any proceeding on any other side of the said Court, but every such claim may be heard on petition or motion instituted in such last mentioned proceeding. By section 4 of Ordinance 5 of 1897, the old Bankruptcy Ordinance, it was provided that the Supreme Court "shall have jurisdiction in bankruptcy, and the Chief Justice when sitting in bankruptcy shall have all the powers, rights and privileges which are now exercised or enjoyed by him, except where this Ordinance otherwise specially provides." The subsequent Repeal Ordinance 20 of 1897 (bankruptcy) and 6 of 1901, (civil procedure), prescriptive rights and privileges, etc., jurisdiction or principle, etc., created by the ordinances severally repealed. The argument is this that the Court of Bankruptcy by 5 of 1897 has the same powers, rights and privileges as the Supreme Court in its Original jurisdiction and in this jurisdiction by 3 of 1897 the distinction for the purpose of jurisdiction between equity and Common Law is abolished; therefore the Court in bankruptcy has equity jurisdiction and therefore section 102 is unnecessary because it would confer a jurisdiction "to decide priorities, etc." which it already has. It seems to me quite probable that that was in the mind of the Attorney-General when drafting the Bankruptcy Ordinance in 1897, but I hesitate to adopt it because 5 of 1897 refers to the "Chief Justice sitting in bankruptcy," and it seems to me that the "powers, rights and privileges," which are conferred upon him when he is sitting in bankruptcy are those personal privileges enjoyed by a judge at Common Law, as, for example, the power to commit for contempt, and from my experience in drafting I know that it is necessary in order to remove doubts to confer these old Common Law privileges on a judge when he is sitting in a newly-created jurisdiction. I express this opinion in order to show that I have not overlooked Mr. Harston's argument. I am not positive whether it is the answer to it, but in view of the opinion I have formed on the question looked at from another point of view it is not necessary for me to decide the point definitely. I must now look at section for a little more closely and see whether what I am asked to do in this case does fall within the inherent jurisdiction of the Court to carry out the Bankruptcy Ordinance, with the administration of which it is charged. Ellis v. Silber was much relied on by Mr. Hastings, but all it decides is that the jurisdiction conferred on the Bank-

ruptcy Court by section 102 is not an exclusive jurisdiction; and that if proceedings are being taken in the Court of Common Law or Equity it cannot be said by virtue of this section that they ought to have been brought in bankruptcy. On the other hand it is undoubtedly the fact that in all the cases either this section or its predecessor, section 72 of the Act of 1883, is referred to. But the contention in this case is that the effect of section 102 is to create all the jurisdiction which is necessary to the Bankruptcy Court to deal with a question whenever a stranger is affected. Now, the first thing which strikes one on looking at the section, is the reference to "priorities." It says that a Court having jurisdiction in Bankruptcy under the Act, is to have full power to decide all questions of priorities. Pausing there for a moment, certain priorities over other debts in respect of a certain class of debts—rates, wages, etc.—are created by section 31 of the Ordinance, which is to all intents and purposes the same provision as sections 1 and 2 of the Act of 1883, which is added to section 40 of the Act of 1883. Now, as these priorities, which rank among themselves *par hasu*, are determined by the Act; itself, it seems clear that they are not the priorities referred to in section 102. We must therefore go back to section 9 (2) which is section to (2) of our Ordinance. That clause provides that the provisions of the section which deal with the effect of a Receiving Order, are not to affect the power of a secured creditor to realize or otherwise deal with his security. It is obvious that questions of priority may arise among the secured creditors; and as they lie outside the bankruptcy, unless they are brought in by the creditors themselves, the Court of Bankruptcy could have no power of dealing with such questions. Power is given to the Court at home by section 102 to settle these priorities, and hence I think must have arisen the idea that the section confers a power on the Court to determine questions affecting strangers; for secured creditors, unless they come in are accurately described as strangers to the bankruptcy; and, therefore, by section 102 the Court has power to decide the priorities of these creditors among themselves. I am not sure that this does not furnish an answer to the question which has been raised as to the jurisdiction of this Court; subject to what I have already said, I should have thought it clear that the Chief Justice sitting in bankruptcy could not decide questions of priorities among secured creditors in the absence of a provision regarding the matter, and now proposes to impose an excise on Formosan sugar in strict conformity with the law, withdrawing it from the market into which it has fallen is considered of national importance, as its failure will not only disturb the financial situation, but also affect the Government revenue. In consequence, the Government much concurred regarding the matter, and now proposes to impose an excise on Formosan sugar in strict conformity with the law, withdrawing it from the market into which it has fallen is considered of national importance, as its failure will not only disturb the financial situation, but also affect the Government revenue. 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Telegrams.

HONGKONG TELEGRAPH

SERVICE.

CURRENCY QUESTION.

GOLD STANDARD FAVOURED.

[By courtesy of the "Sheung Po."]

Peking, 29th January.
It is the wish of the Prince Regent to adopt the gold standard of currency for China.

This being so, the issue of the new coins (Kuping taels) has been deferred.

OPUM CONFERENCE.

TUAN FANG IN SHANGHAI.

[By courtesy of the "Sheung Po."]

Shanghai, 29th January.
Viceroy Tuan Fang is due in Shanghai to-day.

Every preparation has been made for the opening of the International Opium Conference on the 1st February.

TANG SHAO-YI.

ARRIVAL IN LONDON.

[By courtesy of the "Sheung Po."]

Peking, 29th January.
A telegram has been received from H.E. Tang Shao-yi reporting his arrival in London on the 27th inst.

The despatch further states that the ambassador will shortly proceed to France and Germany.

WAIWUPU.

PRESIDENT DENOUNCED.

[By courtesy of the "Sheung Po."]

Peking, 29th January.
A certain censor has denounced Liang Tung-yen on the ground of incompetency to discharge his duties as president of the Waiwupu, as he is alleged to be a confirmed opium smoker.

Grand Councillors Na Tung and Luk Chin-lum, however, strongly support H.E. Liang.

FENGTIEN.

ABOLITION OF GOVERNORSHIP.

[By courtesy of the "Sheung Po."]

Peking, 29th January.
It is proposed by the Central Government to abolish the post of Governor in Fentien.

GREAT FIRE AT TAI-SHA-TAU.

FORTY FLOWER BOATS DESTROYED.

[By courtesy of the "Sheung Po."]

560 GIRLS AND 300 OTHERS LOSE THEIR LIVES.
[From Our Own Correspondent.]

Shameen, 1st February, 1 p.m.

At ten o'clock on Saturday night a tremendous conflagration broke out at the pleasure resort of Tai-sha-tau.

Over forty flower boats were burnt to the water's edge.

Five hundred and sixty girls and about 300 others lost their lives.

[By courtesy of the "Sheung Po."]

Canton, 31st January.
On the night of the 30th inst., between 9 and 11 o'clock, a fire broke out in Choy Kee's flower-boat at Tai-sha-tau.

The entire fleet of flower-boats was destroyed.

The number of those who have perished in the flames and others who have been injured is large.

Later.

The Red Cross Society, Canton representatives of the charitable institutions, officials and the Water Police proceeded to Tai-sha-tau where the scene presented by the holocaust was simply heart-rending.

Over 170 bodies, charred and singed beyond recognition, and some partially burnt, have been recovered.

Many other dead bodies remain to be recovered.

INTERNATIONAL OPIUM COMMISSION.

TUAN FANG UP HOLDS MONOPOLY SYSTEM.

CHINESE GOVERNMENT DETERMINED TO SUPPRESS OPIUM HABIT.

[From Our Own Correspondent.]

Shanghai, 1st February, 8.10 p.m.

His Excellency Viceroy Tuan Fang opened the International Conference direct to the Throne.

Opium Commission at the Palace Hotel to-day.

The attendance was limited to the official delegates representing Europe and America, and the gentlemen of the Press.

The Viceroy, in the course of a lengthy and impressive introductory address, extolled the monopolistic system in dealing with the sale of opium and urged that the special treaties in this connection should be revised in order that the monopoly principle might be adopted by China.

His Excellency emphasised the sincerity of China in her determination to suppress the opium habit.

At the conclusion of the Viceroy's speech the French Consul made application to the effect that the proceedings of the Commission should be conducted through the medium of the French language.

The Russian Consul seconded.

No action, however, was taken on the motion and the point still remains undecided.

Henceforth the deliberations of the delegates will be conducted in private.

Bishop Brent, of Manila, was elected to preside over the meetings of the Commission.

JAPAN AND GERMANY.

AN IMPROBABLE REPORT.

[By courtesy of the "Sheung Po."]

Peking, 31st January.
The Waiwupu learns that an alliance is about to be formed between Japan and Germany.

Great interest is evinced by the Government of China in watching the progress of negotiations.

TIBET.

MISSIONARY INVASION.

[By courtesy of the "Sheung Po."]

Peking, 31st January.
The British Minister in Peking has applied for permission for missionaries to proceed to Tibet for the purpose of evangelisation.

GRAND COUNCILLOR DENOUNCED.

SON'S ALLEGED MISCONDUCT.

[By courtesy of the "Sheung Po."]

Peking, 31st January.
Luk Chin-lum, one of the Grand Councillors, has been denounced for permitting his son to misconduct himself and to receive bribes.

PRINCE CHING.

DESIROUS OF RETIRING.

[By courtesy of the "Sheung Po."]

Peking, 31st January.
Prince Ching is displeased with the Prince Regent's idea of dismissing Hsu Shih-chang.

The Prince himself is desirous of retiring shortly, but the Prince Regent urges him not to do so.

PROVINCIAL VICEROY.

NO CHANGE IN THE NORTH AND SOUTH.

[By courtesy of the "Sheung Po."]

Peking, 31st January.
There is no intention to make any changes regarding the Viceroyships in the North and South.

CHAN PIK.

PROBABLE REMOVAL FROM OFFICE.

[By courtesy of the "Sheung Po."]

Peking, 31st January.
The Commission appointed to investigate the irregularities in the Ministry of Posts and Communications will submit their report on the 5th inst.

Chan Pik, the president, will be removed from office and his place will probably be filled by either Wong Ku-sik, ex-Minister to the Court of St. James's; Liu Hoi-wan (Commissioner who concluded the Mackay Treaty), Prince Lun Pui, or Prince Chop Chun.

MEMORIALS.

FOLLOWING FORMER PRECEDENTS.

[By courtesy of the "Sheung Po."]

Peking, 31st January.
The Prince Regent proposes to follow the example set up by the late Emperor in 1898 by allowing the people to present memorials.

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[By courtesy of the "Sheung Po."]

Peking,

The Peak Murder.

INTERESTING POINT OF LAW.

IS TRANSLATION OF EVIDENCE NECESSARY?

A very interesting point of law was raised before a Full Court, comprised of the Chief Justice (Sir Francis Pigott) and Mr. Justice Gomperts (Vulne Judge), when Mr. H. G. Calthrop submitted that no evidence could be legal unless prisoners knew what that evidence was (i.e., the evidence had already been translated to them in case of their being illiterate or communicated to them if they were deaf and dumb). The case was that in which three men, it may be remembered, were tried for murder, of which one was discharged and the sentences on the other two reserved. Mr. Calthrop appeared for the two prisoners, instructed by Mr. R. D. Atkinson (of Messrs. Deacon, Looker and Deacon) while the Hoa, Mr. W. Rees-Davies (Attorney-General) with whom was Mr. F. B. J. Bowley, of the Crown Solicitor's Office, represented the Crown.

Mr. Calthrop said that the point in the case was whether the jury were entitled to give a verdict on evidence which was left to them but had not been translated to the prisoners. The evidence had been given by fourteen witnesses for the prosecution, of which four gave the evidence in English, and the remaining ten in Punti.

The Attorney-General did not admit any of the allegations.

The Chief Justice.—The question is whether the evidence was material or not.

Mr. Calthrop.—It does not matter whether the evidence was material or not, so long as it was evidence at all. In this case, no evidence was translated in Hok-lo. The indictment was translated in Hok-lo. One witness, a Chinese constable, was asked whether he didn't tell the prisoners they were charged with murder. He spoke in Punti, of which the prisoners could hardly understand two words out of ten. Therefore no translation was made. I submit that the prisoners cannot be convicted on any but legal evidence (i.e., only evidence which the law can allow to the jury). In civil cases, admissions can be made by Counsel or prisoners. In a criminal case, no admissions can be made. It strikes me that previous to 1856, Counsel were not allowed to appear on behalf of prisoners in felony cases. Therefore, all evidence was taken strictly. No alteration has since been made in the Law of Evidence. All evidence which was left to the jury must be evidence which the prisoner head himself or which has been communicated to him by signs (in case he is deaf and dumb).

After quoting authorities on the subject, Mr. Calthrop continued to say that whether the prisoners were defended by Counsel or not, it was just as much necessary to translate the evidence to them. A prisoner is always entitled to make a statement before any proceedings are taken against him. It was impossible for him to give any explanations of circumstances which may appear against him unless he heard the evidence. The local Ordinance stipulated that when a case came before a Magistrate, the evidence, when necessary, should be translated to the prisoner. Under the Evidence Ordinance of 1859, when evidence is taken with a view to commit the depositions should be read over to him, and, if necessary, translated. Unless he heard the evidence, he could not make any adequate statement.

Mr. Justice Gomperts:—I think you will find the words "if desired by the accused."

Mr. Calthrop finally submitted that if evidence is left which is not to be left it is no evidence, even if there are no objections on the part of the accused. In principle, the verdict of the jury in the present case could not stand. Neither Counsel for the prisoner nor the prisoner himself, can, at any rate in criminal evidence, waive any irregularity in the evidence. The presence of Counsel did not affect the matter. The last point was that if any evidence was left which ought to have been taken, the conviction must be quashed.

The Attorney-General held that this was no question of law, and after a lengthy citing of authorities, the case was adjourned for further consideration.

THE LATE MR. J. M. A. DA SILVA'S WILL.

A FRIENDLY ACTION.

A very interesting case which was described as a friendly action was brought before the Chief Justice in the Supreme Court last Monday afternoon. This was an originating summons brought by the plaintiff (J. M. A. da Silva) against the defendant (Maria Antonia Placé da Silva) for determination by Court of some questions upon the construction of the will of the late J. M. A. da Silva. The action, as stated by Sir Henry Berkeley, K.C., on behalf of the plaintiff, is a friendly one. Sir Henry Berkeley, K.C., who was assisted by Mr. H. K. Holmes, appeared for the plaintiff, while Mr. H. E. Pollock, K.C., with Mr. Gomes (of the firm of Otto Kong Sing) represented the defendant.

Following are the questions:—

1. What estate or interest does the defendant take in the chattels and effects mentioned in the 6th paragraph of the will of the said J. M. A. da Silva, deceased.

2. If the defendant takes a life interest in the said chattels and effects (determinable on re-marriage) what, if any, inventory should be signed or undertaken as to said custody should be given by her in respect thereof.

3. What estate or interest does the defendant take in the Testator's leasehold properties.

4. If the defendant takes a life interest in such leasehold properties (determinable on re-marriage) what, if any, inventory should be signed or undertaken as to said custody should be given by her in respect thereof.

5. What estate or interest does the defendant take in the shares of the Testator in Public Companies, and what, if any, transfers of such shares should be made by the executor.

6. What person or persons should have the custody of the Testator's collection of coins referred to in the said will.

The case was adjourned.

THE EXPEDITION TO TIBET.

ITS COST TO INDIA.

A return was issued on 24th Dec. as to the cost of the military operations undertaken on the Indian frontier and elsewhere between 1899 and 1900. For the mission to Tibet 5,000 troops were employed, and the approximate cost was 15,000,000 rupees. On the Aiden Boundary Commission 3,500 troops were employed, at a cost of 6,429,000 rupees.

The question of a contribution by the British Treasury towards the cost of the Commission is still under consideration.

The Viceroy in Fukien has deputed Taotai Hu Chih-cheng to attend the International Opium Conference in Shanghai. Two deputies were also sent by an Anti-Opium Society and the people of the province.

CANTON RIVER HOLOCAUST.

OFFICIAL REPORT.

[From Our Own Correspondent.]

Canton, 4th February.

With reference to the big fire in the flower-boats at Tai-sha-tau on the 29th ultimo, the latest report submitted to the Viceroy by the Water Police Authorities states that the total number of craft burnt is sixty-one, whilst the number of casualties is still incomplete, but so far as it is ascertained some five hundred corps have been recovered and there is every reason to believe that many more still remain to be found.

During the height of the conflagration several persons were arrested for taking advantage of the confusion by robbing the poor victims in distress. After being tried the prisoners were released for want of sufficient proof to obtain a conviction. One villain was arrested for robbing the dead bodies of the valuables on them. Admiral Li Chue has detailed a gunboat to cruise up and down the river for the purpose of picking up any dead bodies that may be found floating and at the same time to keep a strict watch in order to prevent any corpses from being robbed of any valuable property that may be found on them.

A number of corpses is still lying in the vicinity of the Water Police Station at the eastern section of the harbour to-day, awaiting to be claimed. Yesterday a dead body floated up the Shameen creek and was picked up and conveyed to the Fung Pin Hospital.

In consideration of the fact that corpses may float up and down the river, the water becoming thus contaminated and injurious to the health of residents who may use it for potable purposes the Viceroy has given instructions to the Director of the Canton Waterworks Company to provide a free supply of fresh water for a period of ten days to the people residing along the boud. Several hundred big jars and buckets have been placed in various places filled with water by the Waterworks company and are offered to the people twice a day. This considerate action of the Viceroy is highly appreciated.

The derelicts of the burnt crafts have all been removed and there are now only small pieces of wreckage found floating in the harbour.

Numerous complaints have been lodged against the Water Police for forbidding the admission of sampans and other boats into the vicinity to render assistance to the people in the midst of danger during the occurrence, and it is said proceedings will be taken against the Water Police. Again suggestions have been given by some people that the Water Police Force should be done away with altogether.

As the outcome of the fire at Tai-sha-tau, the Viceroy has ordered the deportation of the women of the underworld in Canton who are natives of Shanghai.

YAU-MA-TI ARMED ROBBERY.

THE SHOOTING OF LANCE-SERGEANT MILLS.

HEARING AT THE MAGISTRACY.

The wave of indignation which passed over Hongkong when the news was made known that an unprecedented outrage had been perpetrated on Chinese New Year Eve by a band of armed ruffians whereby a policeman met his death and the murderer himself shot down by the dead man's comrade, is doubtless fresh in the minds of many. This afternoon, as a result of the sad incident, seven men were arraigned before Mr. J. W. Ward at the Magistrate's Court with the murderer of the late Lance-Sergeant Mills, Deputy-Superintendent of Police King prosecuted, while the prisoners were undefended. Before proceeding with the chief business of the afternoon, the charge of murder was withdrawn and only that of armed robbery allowed to stand. The only charge of armed robbery was withdrawn in the case of two of the men (3rd and 4th defendants) while one (7th defendant) was discharged.

Li Chun, the keeper of an iron foundry and an engineering establishment, residing at 43, Kennedy Street, Yau-ma-ti, was the first to be called to the witness box. He said that his house was robbed on the night of the 21st January last. He left Hongkong about 8 o'clock that evening and arrived at his shop about an hour later. He entered his shop and began to talk with his assistants (a 1/4th and an accountant). Between ten and eleven o'clock, five persons entered the shop as they were sitting down. Each of them was armed with a revolver, which they pointed at the inmates, driving them to one side. One of them demanded the keys of the safe, and after searching for them, found them and proceeded to open the safe and appropriate the contents. Witness and his two assistants were tied together by the accused. After taking away whatever money they could, they left the shop and started to run. Witness gave chase and shouted "Thief!" After turning a corner, somebody was heard to blow a whistle, the first defendant soon afterwards being taken into custody by a Chinese detective. At the time of the robbery, there were two lights burning in the house, one hanging inside the shop and another in the accountant's room. They pointed their revolvers at him and ordered him to maintain silence on pain of death. There were five of them who were carrying out their nefarious plans, but of these, witness was not in a position to identify except one, as he kept chasing him all the time. He could not say which of the accused demanded the safe keys, as they turned his face to the wall. There was about \$4,300 in the house (about \$3,000 in notes and the rest in coins). The reason why he did not deposit the money in a Bank was because he always found it safe in his own house. After the safe had been opened by the burglars and its contents rifled, the account books were found scattered about the floor. Among the goods thus stolen, was a watch.

The accountant's evidence was taken and after further depositions, the case was remanded.

ADMIRAL LAMBTON.

VISIT TO MACAO.

3rd inst.

Vice-Admiral The Hon. Sir Bedworth Lambton, commander-in-chief, with a party of five, proceeded on his despatch-boat on a visit to Macao this morning. H. M. S. *Alacrity* left the harbour with naval visitors at 8 o'clock this morning, and was expected off the roadstead at Macao shortly after. The party was to land in the forenoon. At Macao an official reception would be accorded the British Admiral who had been invited to lunch at Government House. The return trip will be made this afternoon; the *Alacrity* is expected back in Hongkong this evening.

WASHINGTTON despatch of January 26 says:—Bishop Charles H. Brent of the Philippines Islands has forwarded to Congress a memorial on the subject of the suppression of the opium traffic. The Bishop urges upon Congress the necessity of the United States taking a more active part in the campaign against opium particularly in the matter of suppressing the trade in China.

CORRESPONDENCE.

[We do not necessarily endorse the opinions expressed by Correspondents in this column.]

UPPER CASTLE ROAD.

To the Editor of the "HONGKONG TELEGRAPH".

SIR.—Residents in the upper level district, especially that section comprised within Conduit and Seymour Roads, have reason to complain against the state in which Upper Castle Road has been maintained now for a little time past. I refer to that portion of the road bounded by Seymour Road on the north and the Jewish Synagogue on the south. Whether through an oversight of the Public Works Department, or to the exhaustion of the financial vote for the maintenance of roads in the city, the fact remains that Upper Castle Road has been allowed to fall into a state of disrepair that should not be tolerated to remain so for very much longer. If a P.W.D. executive officer will make it his business to visit the locality, he will discover for himself the need of resurfacing the broken up parts of the road. The repairs are badly and urgently needed if only to give a smooth surface for the chair coolies who have daily to traverse a steep roadway at all times laborious to negotiate with a heavy burden on one's shoulders.

Yours, etc.,
CANTON, 4th February.

REINERSON, RESIDENT.

Hongkong, 3rd February, 1900.

CANTON DAY BY DAY.

THE EARTHQUAKE IN ITALY.

[From Our Own Correspondent.]

CANTON, 29th January.

H. E. Viceroy Chang Jen Chua has received the British Vice-Consul at Canton.

THE FLOWER-BOATS CATASTROPHE.

A number of sampans, engaged by the different charitable institutions and private parties, were still busily at work yesterday at Tai-sha-tau recovering dead bodies. Up to yesterday afternoon, the total number of corpses recovered is not less than five hundred; most of them have been claimed by the relatives of the deceased. It is learnt from the boat people that many still remain to be picked up.

ABORTIVE ATTEMPT TO CREATE TROUBLE.

Admiral Li Chue has been informed that in Shum Tsui village in Namhoi district, belonging to the clan Choi, there are three forts now in course of construction by the villagers with a view to engage in hostilities with the neighbouring villages. The Admiral has therefore given stringent orders to the gentry of the locality to have the structures demolished without delay.

FATAL ACCIDENT.

On the 25th instant, two boys, one thirteen years old and the other fifteen, while playing in a crack shop at Fai-shan, a pot of gunpowder unexpectedly exploded with the result that both the boys were fatally injured; one of them died the same day and the other on the following day.

ANOTHER TRAIN MISHAP.

On the 25th instant, at 11 a.m., a woman was made the victim of a train accident on the Fai-shan railway in the vicinity of Tai-chun station by a passing train, which knocked the unfortunate woman down while on its way from Fai-shan to Tai-nam.

NO FACILITIES FOR TOURISTS.

The Viceroy has given instructions that no passport should be issued to foreigners of non-nationalities on a travelling tour in the interior.

A TROUBLING TURK.

A Turk was yesterday escorted to Canton by a weyan from Wuchow and handed over to the Viceroy. The foreigner was attacked by the natives in Wuchow as a result of disturbances created by him while playing "Fanta".

The man has been provided with a free passage by the Viceroy, who told him to leave Canton to avoid further trouble.

30th January.

THE OPIUM CAMPAIGN.

It would seem that the local Police Force are conscious of their duties in the suppression of opium-smoking. Several opium dens have lately been raided and offenders have been fined.

On the 27th instant, two private opium dens were found on the outskirts of the Northern Gate. During the last few months, a large quantity of opium-smoking apparatus were seized by the Police in the city. This morning, all the opium-smoking paraphernalia were destroyed in a bonfire in the name of the Taotai of Constanby in the presence of the officials.

COLLECTION OF HOUSE-TAX.

The total collection of house-tax by the police authorities in this city during last year towards the funds for the maintenance of the Police Force was about \$50,000.

H. E. LIANG TING FUN.

H. E. Liang Ting Fun, a retired official, who arrived here a week ago, refuses interviews to all officials as well as to his friends.

Somebody was heard to blow a whistle, the first defendant soon afterwards being taken into custody by a Chinese detective.

At the time of the robbery, there were two lights burning in the house, one hanging inside the shop and another in the accountant's room.

They pointed their revolvers at him and ordered him to maintain silence on pain of death.

There were five of them who were carrying out their nefarious plans, but of these, witness was not in a position to identify except one, as he kept chasing him all the time.

He could not say which of the accused demanded the safe keys, as they turned his face to the wall.

There was about \$4,300 in the house (about \$3,000 in notes and the rest in coins).

The reason why he did not deposit the money in a Bank was because he always found it safe in his own house.

After the safe had been opened by the burglars and its contents rifled, the account books were found scattered about the floor.

Among the goods thus stolen, was a watch.

The accountant's evidence was taken and after further depositions, the case was remanded.

THE NATIONAL MOURNING.

Owing to international mourning on account of the death of the late Emperor Kwang Hsu, there will be no celebration on the occasion of the Birthday of His Imperial Majesty the new Emperor Huan Tung, which will take place on the 13th day of this month (3rd of February).

The day will not be observed as a public holiday until the prohibited period of mourning for three years has expired according to traditional precedents.

2nd February.

THE "TAI-ON" CASE.

With reference to the collision between the steamer *Tai-ON* and the junk belonging to Yink Go Tsui when the junk and a few lives were lost, the Namhoi Maritime on the 27th ultimo received instructions from H. E. the Viceroy to hold a Court of Inquiry into the case on the 8th instant, when the British Consul and the Judge from Shanghai will be present to attend the proceedings.

THE FLOWER-BOAT CONFLAGRATION.

In continuation of yesterday's report on the disastrous fire in the flower-boats at Tai-sha-tau on the 26th ultimo, it is now ascertained from the survivors that the Water Police are entirely to blame for the occurrence. When the fire started, the Water Police did not anticipate serious consequences, and in the attempt to prevent the villains from taking advantage of entering the area in distress to loot, they forbade the admission of sampans and other boats to the spot to render assistance; otherwise the figures of casualties would not have been so great. Up to 4 p.m. yesterday afternoon, some sixty corps were recovered. A considerable number of hands on board launches and sampans still continue their work of recovering dead bodies. Commandant services have been rendered by the members of the Red Cross Society, the Fung Pin Hospital and other institutions to both the wounded and the dead.

THE ANTI-OPIUM CAMPAIGN.

The Anti-Opium Association of Canton has addressed a telegram to

THE Walpuk has informed the Diplomatic Body in Peking that an audience with the Prince Regent will be granted to them in the current month.

A SMALL Opium Committee under Mr. M. S. D. Butler, I.C.S., has been appointed to consider certain matters in connection with the cabilization of poppy in India.

Mr. Excellency the Governor has been pleased to recognise Mr. Gaston E. Lisbert, Consul for France, as being in charge of the Spanish Consulate in Hongkong until further notice.

PRESIDENT Tsi Liang of the Ministry of War has been ordered by the Prince Regent to re-organise the Chinese Navy, but no foreign loan should be contracted in connection with the project.

It is reported that Mr. A. Shelton Hooper and Dr. Gorard, H. L. Fitzwilliams were duly elected to be members of the Sanitary Board at the Election held on the 20th ultimo.

NEGOTIATIONS are in progress between the Ministry of Posts and Communications and the Japanese and Russian authorities to recover the control of the telephone line on the Manchurian railway for the Chinese.

THE Ministry of Education has telegraphed to the Governor of Kiangsi instructing him to act in conjunction with the Educational Commissioner in reforming and improving educational administration in that province.

It is reported that the cost of the Imperial Mausoleum for Emperor Kwang Hsi is estimated at Tls. 5,000,000. Compared with what has been spent in the past on other mausolea, this is the smallest sum on record.

AS the Mongolian Princes have expressed determination to encourage education in their domain, the Government has decided to afford them means of inspecting the various educational institutions after Chinese New Year.

THE Prince Regent is resolved to recall ex-Viceroy Tseu Chuan-hsien into active service and has ordered the Grand Council to summon him to Peking by telegram. It is reported that he will be appointed Viceroy of Manchuria.

It is noticed that salt may be exported in bond and without payment of duty from India to Hongkong under certain regulations drawn up by the Government of India, which may be seen upon application at the Colonial Secretary's Office.

A CENSUS of Formosa taken at the end of 1907 has just been published. It shows a population of 3,108,723, including 79,025 natives, 3,018,402 natives and 11,306 foreigners. About 120,000 aborigines are excluded from the above list.

THE Chinese Press has addressed a joint petition to the Ministry of the Interior praying for a pardon to Peng Yi-chung and Tang Chi-hio, ex-editors in Peking, who were ordered home and placed under official surveillance for offending the Government.

ALTHOUGH suggestions have been made urging the curtailment of the term of ten years fixed for the entire suppression of opium, one of the Grand Councillors has advised that a decision in the matter be come to until after the result of the coming International Opium Commission at Shanghai is known.

THE master of the Japanese steamship *Shobata Maru* reports that at 11.30 a.m. on the 22nd inst., when in Lat. 22° 16' N. Long. 114° 47' E., with Single Island bearing N. 41° W. (Magnetic) 11 miles off, he sighted the upper part of a small vessel's lower mast head, about 12 feet out of the water, with some heavy body attached keeping it quite erect.

THE Admiralty have selected the protected cruiser *Andromeda*, which is refitting at Devonport Dockyard, to convey the crew of the armoured cruiser *Warrior* to Hongkong to relieve the present crew of the *Bedford*, which is to be re-commissioned by Capt. E. S. Fithberth for another term of service on the China Station. The crew will embark at Devonport on Feb. 2.

A CONCERT will be given by the Choir of St. John's Cathedral in the City Hall on Friday, February 12th, at 9.15 p.m. in aid of the Cathedral Organ which is urgently in need of extensive repairs. The sum of £1,000, roughly, is required. Sacred music will form the first part of the programme; in the second part items of a lighter character will be included. Tickets may be obtained at the Robinson Piano Co., Ltd.

BY direction of the Admiralty, half-crews have been selected at the Medway depot for passage to the Far East to join the armed shallow draught gunboats *Moerkin*, *Teal*, *Robin*, *Woodcock* and *Sandpiper*, which are employed on river service of the China Station. The ratings are to embark in the cruiser *Arabs* on January 3 for Hongkong and Shanghai, and the *Hawke* is also to take out relief crews for three of the destroyers of the China Station.

WE learn from the *Asahi* that the Dairi Mill (near Hoi) of the Dai Nippon Sugar Refining Company has been exporting 5,000 to 6,000 bags of sugar daily from its stock since it suspended operations recently. The stock now held by the mill is about 100,000 bags of refined sugar and 4,000 baskets and 10,000 bags of crude sugar, the latter corresponding to about 200,000 bags of refined. The total value of the stock is estimated at about Yen 10,000,000.

THE appointments are announced of: Lieutenant E. P. H. Pardoe to the *Tamar*, for duty as Instructor of Musketry on the China Station; E. L. Cardale to the *Hawke*, to date January 5, and to the *King Alfred*, additional, for the *Hawke*, in command, undated. Engineer Lieutenant J. Kelly, to the *King Alfred*, for the *Fame*, A. F. Jones to the *King Alfred*, for the *Virgo*, and A. E. Drought, to the *Tamar*, for the *Whiting*, additional, on recommissioning, undated.

ALTHOUGH the Government has given a pledge that the overseas garrisons, such as Singapore and Hongkong, are not to be reduced—they have been already reduced to the lowest possible limit—pressure will be brought to bear in order to have the garrisons further reduced in the name of economy, that more money may be available for faddists to squander. The garrison in the Far East should be substantially strengthened, especially in artillery, rather than reduced.

THE following description of Sir Cecil Clement Smith appears in a Singapore contemporary.—As Sir Cecil walked up the eastern gangway from the launch, the general remark was how little he had changed, and how well he looked. Both of which were apparent, for the cares of office laid aside, our ex-governor is decidedly better in the face, and withal of a ruddiness that beokens a healthy country life. There could be little doubt about the man, and still less when his voice was heard, clear and high-pitched, as he addressed, almost the first he recognized, Mr. Seah Liang Seah.

THE chief eunuch, Li Lien-Ying, dashes to retire from the Palace service, but Grand Councillor Sun Hill is advising him to remain.

LIEUTENANT A. Gott, Inspector of Army Schools, has arrived home from Hongkong, and has been detailed for duty in No. 1 District, Aden.

THE *Gazette* announces that Mr. W. T. Lay, Commissioner of Chinese Customs, and Mr. E. V. Breenan, Deputy Commissioner in the same service, have received permission to accept and to wear the Chinese Order of the Double Dragon, first class, third division.

THE Prince Regent has decided that after a stamp duty has been levied, financial affairs readjusted, and a Budget for national expenditure has been made, like shall be abolished for ever. The Government has, therefore, proposed to hold a meeting on the 12th instant to discuss financial reorganization and the separation of the collection of duties and like.

It is reported that Prince Su will be appointed to the Presidency of the Yuchuanfu in place of Chen Pi, who will be removed as a result of his impeachment by the Censors, and his post given to Prince Yu Lang, the present Commander of the Gendarmerie. It is also reported that H.E. Chang Chih-tung has asked leave to return to his old post of Viceroy of Liangshu.

WE regret to record the death at the General Hospital of Mr. A. W. Maclean, of the German Service. Mr. Maclean, who, as his name implies, was of Scotch descent, came out to Shanghai in 1904, and since the absence on leave of Mr. Schirmer has been acting as German Assessor at the Mixed Court. Death was due to appendicitis, for which he had an operation on Sunday. He never rallied and died in the course of Sunday afternoon.—*N. C. D. News*.

WITH reference to the Calabria earthquake, H.E. Tuan Fang, Viceroy at Nanking, has consulted his brother Viceroy and Governor in the coast and riverine provinces with a view to raising contributions for the relief of the sufferers, and, as a result, Tls. 4,000 and £30,000 in all have been subscribed. This sum has been forwarded to the Italian Consul at Shanghai for remittance and a telegram has been sent to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs reporting the matter.

THE Japanese Diet reassembled on January 21. Matsuki Katsura, the Premier, in introducing the Budget for the 42nd year of Meiji, in the House of Representatives, said that the ordinary revenue was estimated at Yen 470,667,970, and the extraordinary revenue at Yen 45,537,625, making a total of Yen 516,200,795. The estimated total expenditure was Yen 516,200,795, which comprised an ordinary expenditure of Yen 400,922,022 and an extraordinary expenditure of Yen 15,388,693.

IN consequence of frequent cases arising through the people in the different provinces having surreptitiously sold land to foreigners, cases which have often involved much diplomatic friction as well as loss of interests, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has consulted the Ministry of Justice and the Commissioner for Revision of Laws with a view to instructing the Japanese professor engaged by them to draw up a set of special laws against this evil and injurious practice. A set of eight rules has been framed and Imperial sanction will soon be obtained for their enforcement throughout the empire.

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